

Haka Adai!

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 81
MONDAY APRIL 26, 2021
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FAMILY FUN NIGHT
 This indigenous-inspired hut, the centerpiece of the San Vicente Central Park, housed some of the Division of Youth Services' booths during their Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center last Friday.
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75¢

Kilili: DOL holding on to half of PUA/PFUC funds

» **'Biden commits to SNAP for Marianas'**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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 REPORTER

Delagate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has accused the CNMI Department of Labor of not releasing about half of the \$380.92 million that the federal government gave the CNMI to help those who lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

See **DOL** on **Page 4**

Torres on Article 12: No to abolition but talks of amending it good for discussion

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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 REPORTER

While he personally does not support the total abolition of Article 12, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that talks about possibly amending it is good

for discussions and everyone in the Commonwealth should voice their opinion on the issue.

Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution limits landownership in the Commonwealth

See **TORRES** on **Page 4**

2 more positive cases

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

While two more people tested positive for COVID-19, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther

» **Muña: We may ease quarantine restrictions**

Muña said they are considering easing the quarantine facility restrictions while still

See **2 MORE** on **Page 4**

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE FEMA's Buettner vaccinates homebound residents



The Federal Emergency Management Agency has always attracted dedicated employees who exemplify the agency's mission of helping people before, during, and after disasters.

See **FEMA** on **Page 4**

Karen Buettner, Federal Emergency Management Agency Situation Unit leader and licensed nurse, answers COVID 19 vaccination questions from a homebound Saipan resident. Buettner has volunteered to administer vaccinations to homebound seniors.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, April 25, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	18,648
Fully Vaccinated:	15,089
Moderna	
Initiated:	2,885
Fully Vaccinated:	2,235
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	49

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,909	2	7,911
Recovered	7,708	4	7,712
Active	61	2	63
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	150,397		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	162	2	164
Traced via Travel Screening	126	2	128
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	39		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CNMI DOL opening offices for unemployment benefits. PAGE 3

On Earth Day 2021, Kilili reintroduces shark fin sales ban. PAGE 5

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LOCAL

PSS and the Board of Education honor the school district's administrative personnel.

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NATION

A sheriff whose deputies shot and killed a Black man will ask a court to release the body camera video.

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LIFE & STYLE

An Oscars unlike any before will get underway Sunday night, with history on the line.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Family Fun Night at SV youth center draws crowds

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

In honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Division of Youth Services held a Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center last Friday in an event that drew lots of families to the many activities featured at the event.

Family Fun Night, which DYS did with the help of the Northern Marianas College, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library,



Two children play cornhole at the Division of Youth Services' Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center last Friday. The event also had other games and activities, a raffle, and live performances from Hopwood Middle School students, 6LICK S373N Z3R0 Group, and the MHS Glee Club.

JOSHUA SANTOS

and DYS' other partnering agencies, featured games and other activities for children and their parents, promotional booths, a raffle, free health screenings, and live performances from Hopwood Middle School students, 6LICK S373N Z3R0 Group, and the MHS Glee Club.

"We chose [the San Vicente Youth Center] for families in the community to come out and enjoy because I know some families have never been to the center, and tonight they're like, 'Wow, this is really cool!'" said Julian Camacho, supervisor for DYS Child Protective Services. The youth center is in the San Vicente Central Park, between a basketball court and a large hut.

The event had four booths manned by NMC, JLPL, the Childcare Licensing Program, and DYS. Camacho explained that DYS still wanted to maintain social distancing and COVID-19 safety protocols, so they limited the number of organizations present to four.

Three other booths hosted games, gave out goodies and

prizes, and handed out pamphlets promoting their respective programs.

NMC's free health screening booth served as a real-world learning experience for the college's nursing students. At their booth, a person was able to get their blood pressure and glucose levels checked, and other tests typical of a check-up, free of charge. "[NMC] reached out and they wanted to bring their program here so they can help the community," said Camacho.

Camacho thanked everyone that came out and explained one of DYS' newer campaigns: "LOVE." "Thanks to everybody for coming out and sharing the night with us. Our team says 'LOVE: Let our voices echo.' We have so many victims out there, but nobody can hear their voices, that's why we came up with 'LOVE,'" said Camacho.

DYS' next event is on May 8 called Family Fun Day, which will have big trucks and motorcycles on display for children to see and many other attractions. A time and location will be announced soon.

Salty's Grill and Cafe is now an NMC ProaPerks Partner

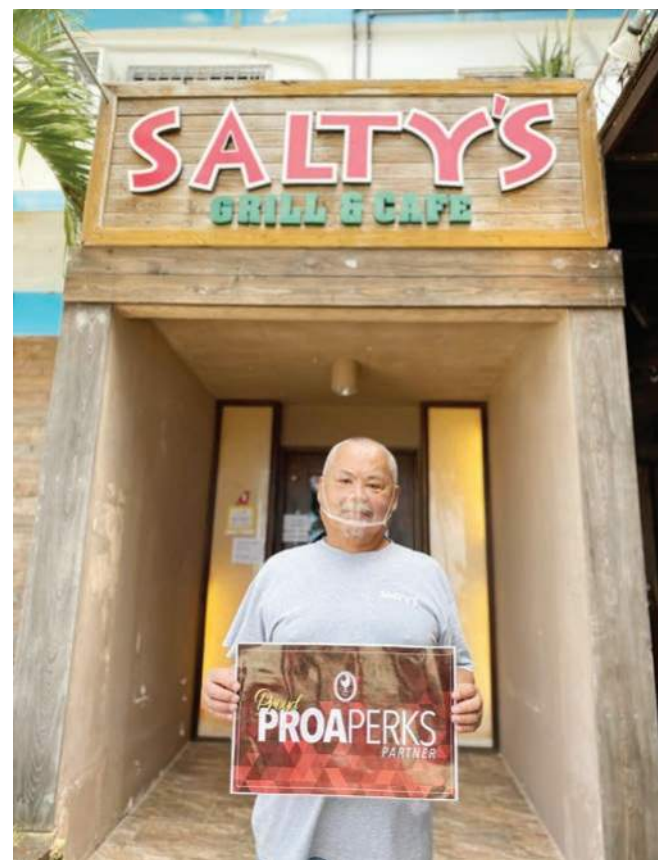
Salty's Grill and Cafe is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 10% off on any food purchase at

Salty's Grill and Cafe.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (NMC)



Salty's Grill and Cafe is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion to ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks.

NMC

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

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This project is supported by Grant No. 2019-WR-AX-0051 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

CNMI DOL opening offices for unemployment benefits

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs giving the CNMI more than \$400,000 to begin the unemployment insurance program, the CNMI Department of Labor will be opening up new offices that will aid in providing unemployment benefits and insurance to residents.

Speaking at a radio briefing last Friday, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said the \$497,000 will be used as seed money so that the CNMI can create its own unemployment insurance program. Right now, the CNMI doesn't have one, which was blamed for causing a delay in the implementation of the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance last year.

"We're very grateful to OIA for the \$497,000 that the CNMI Department of Labor will be using to move forward with the implementation of our own unemployment insurance program," said Benavente.

With many CNMI residents relying on federal funds such as the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation/ the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Benavente projects

that these residents won't have a stable income for a while, hence the need for the CNMI's own unemployment insurance program.

Comparing the data between CNMI DOL's unemployment claims and the U.S. Department of Labor's unemployment claims, Benavente projected that the CNMI's unemployment remains "at the same level."

"We've been seeing almost every week about 200 applications, or documents being submitted for those applications. It's a steady pace of unemployed applicants in the CNMI, so I don't see a reduction in those numbers at this point," said Benavente.

She said they are in communication with other territories, which also don't have unemployment insurance program,

on what they are doing.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the overall goal of the OIA grant is to enhance the CNMI's management of Disaster Pandemic Assistance programs through the following objectives:

■ Fund critical technical training needed to fully understand the activities associated with implementing unemployment

insurance programs in the CNMI:

■ Develop unemployment insurance programs in the CNMI;

■ Improve and expand programs to ensure the timeliness of disaster/pandemic assistance; and

■ Establish accountability and financial management systems associated with implementing unemployment insurance programs.



Benavente

KHS Class of 2006 cleans up Pau Pau Beach



Ashley Reiko Pangelinan, leftmost, poses with her classmates during the Kagman High School Class of 2006's beach cleanup at Pau Pau Beach last Saturday. Altogether they collected seven trash bags of cigarette butts, microplastics, and other litter.

JOSHUA SANTOS

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Ashley Reiko Pangelinan, owner of Pualani Crown and Free in Saipan and lead organizer for her class reunion party, was joined by nine of her fellow Kagman High School alumni in a cleanup of Pau Pau Beach last Saturday.

With the help of gloves and large trash bags donated by the Young Gunz Motorcycle Club, the KHS Class of 2006 collected seven bags' worth of cigarette butts, microplastics, and other litter on Saturday morning.

The beach cleanup was also registered as a part of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Environmental Awareness Month islandwide cleanup event. "We [already had plans] to do a beach cleanup and then all of a sudden we saw a pop up of BECQ doing an islandwide [cleanup] weeks later, so why not register with them, and have our class be with them too?" said Pangelinan.

She thanked her classmates for coming and was pleasantly surprised with the turnout. She also thanked Young Gunz Motorcycle Club for the trash bags and gloves and BECQ for allowing them to join in the islandwide cleanup efforts. She encourages every high school graduate to stay active and aware of the environment.

The KHS Class of 2006 will

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TORRES

From Page 1

to persons of Northern Marianas descent, or NMD.

Responding to a question on the subject at his regular radio news briefing last Friday, Torres said that Article 12 is very sensitive to everyone and that he is going speak as an individual and as an NMD.

"I believe that it should never be abolished and that's my take," he said.

As for talks about amending Ar-

ticle 12, that's another matter.

"At the end of the day, as long as it goes back to our NMDs, that's the most important part," said the governor, adding that CNMI lands doesn't grow and the population continues to increase.

Torres cited Hong Kong as an example, in which had a lease of 99 years on the territory from Great Britain. After 99 years, he said, Hong Kong went back to China. "Look at Hong Kong, how developed it is. My last recollection regarding like Manhattan, for example, is that a lot of those big skyscrapers are leased for

99 years," the governor said.

Torres said he is open for discussion if the CNMI will extend the 55-year land lease to 99 years.

Senate Legislative Initiative 22-01, which Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) introduced, seeks to amend Article 12 to remove the restriction on the alienation of land in the CNMI.

The initiative's first public hearing on Saipan last Tuesday before the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs at the Senate chamber drew

many opponents, including the senator's older brother.

Torres said he respects each other's decision and different views on Article 12. "They all have different merits to Article 12. But personally, for me, I would like to maintain Article 12. It is the only thing that holds our identity and the opportunity for our children and grandchildren and the next generation after that," he said.

In Hawaii, Torres said, the native Hawaiians are fighting to get their lands back to maintain whatever land they have.

"So to everyone, we've seen lot of comments, a lot of sentimental issues. But personally, for me, I would like to keep Article 12. If we need to amend it, that's a good discussion to have," he said.

He said he is a proud NMD and no matter where he goes, even when he was in the United States and going to school, he's always been a proud Chamorro and a proud NMD. When he came back to the CNMI after studying in the U.S. mainland, land became more valuable to him he said.

"We can have arguments or debate regarding the value of the land may increase. If you sell it, you're done."

The governor said today a lot of

the land leases that were done in the 1980s are now being looked at whether to extend their leases.

"I hope that through all the comments, written or oral, this is the time for all of us," he said.

Torres said everyone has an obligation and the duty to write in whether to support the proposed Senate initiative or not, whether he or she wants Article 12 to be abolished, or amended.

"I urge that everyone here in the CNMI, regardless of your race, regardless of your age, regardless of your status, make it a point to write your opinion, or voice your opinion. Either way, it's important that the Legislature and everyone in the community hear your sentiment on Article 12," he said. "We continue that dialogue. But we need to protect our land."

Hofschneider earlier stated that Senate Legislative Initiative 22-01 will allow NMD landowners to fully exercise their real property rights, and to reduce the NMD percentage of ownership interest in an NMD corporation.

Hofschneider clarified that the initiative applies only to private ownership and that public lands will not be affected by his proposed legislation.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

A group of nursing students from the Northern Marianas College pose for a photo at their health screening booth during the Division of Youth Services' Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center last Friday. At their tent, a person was able to get their blood pressure and glucose levels checked, and other tests typical of a check-up, free of charge.

JOSHUA SANTOS



2 MORE

From Page 1

following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance.

According to CHCC, two additional incoming travelers have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, which brings the total cases up to 164. CHCC said the individuals were identified through travel screening and was confirmed positive on the fifth-day testing. Also, both are asymptomatic.

CHCC said the individuals have been moved to the designated isolation area for close monitoring, while CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has initiated contact tracing for contacts with the highest risk of exposure.

Meanwhile, speaking at a media briefing last Friday, Muña said CHCC, the Governor's COVID-19

Task Force, and the administration are considering and evaluating easing the quarantine restrictions while still complying with CDC guidance.

Muña did not elaborate, saying CHCC will be announcing an update on quarantine restrictions later this week.

CHCC continues community outreach

Muña said CHCC will continue to do community outreach for those who have yet to be vaccinated.

So far, CHCC went to the Systems of Care in San Antonio to accommodate those who are living in the southern part of the island and the Kagman Community Center in Kagman to assist those who are in the eastern part of the island.

Muña said they are doing outreaches for those who have "barriers" that are holding them back from getting the vaccine. CHCC will soon be go-

ing to the northern part of the island to assist those who are in Tanapag, San Roque and As Matuis, and then going to the Northern Marianas College. This is on top of the plan to use the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center as a vaccination site.

Muña said a lot of the information CHCC gets are transmitted to CDC and the White House. "We report on ethnicity, on everything about an individual so we have a good data collection to transmit to the feds," said Muña.

According to task force chair Warren Villagomez, a dry run will happen at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on April 28. Villagomez said they want to ensure that details and logistics are in place for when the HHS and federal team vaccinators arrive.

"Our goal is to get through our people, as well as making sure that we avail the services on the south part of the island," said Villagomez.

FEMA

From Page 1

sasters. The spirit of neighbors helping neighbors is also common in the CNMI and, when you combine the two, you find a long-time Saipan resident and FEMA employee like Karen Buettner.

A 22-year resident of Saipan who was hired last summer as the Situation Unit Leader for FEMA's COVID-19 response, Buettner's work was already busy. Her role involves collecting, interpreting, and verifying information about the COVID-19 work being accomplished and needs that require additional effort. Buettner also serves as the planning specialist for FEMA's COVID-19 team in Guam.

With an ample supply of COVID-19 vaccine and residents interested in being vaccinated, Buettner saw a way to use her skills as a licensed nurse and help accelerate the CNMI's

vaccination efforts. She worked previously for a fertilization clinic and, most recently, at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. on Saipan.

Although she was already enrolled in a critical week-long course that is taught on mainland time, Buettner was determined and prepared to take on an additional mission: vaccination duty.

Between juggling planning duties for the CNMI and Guam, delivering a situation report, and fulfilling the day's training requirements, Buettner has made herself available to vaccinate homebound seniors. Since April 7, she has completed five shifts and vaccinated 22 residents.

"The seniors I have helped were so grateful. One wheelchair-bound gentleman lost his home to [Super] Typhoon Yutu and his temporary home didn't have a proper ramp. Another senior I visited was confused when I first arrived. With the help of her caregiver, I was able to earn her trust and vaccinate the two of them.

Earning trust is a big part of the job and I look forward to my next assignments," said Buettner.

Buettner has made herself available for up to 20 hours a week, which includes mandatory observation periods following each vaccination.

Buettner is not alone. She is one of dozens of frontline workers filling multiple roles to meet needs and demonstrate the mission of people helping people in the Northern Marianas.

Vaccination efforts in the CNMI continue, with about half of residents 65 or older and 22% of the whole population fully vaccinated. FEMA and federal partners will continue to support the CNMI's efforts to battle COVID-19.

"We encourage all CNMI residents to get the vaccine and follow measures that keep everyone even safer: watching our distance, including wearing a mask and washing our hands frequently," reminds Buettner. (PR)

DOL

From Page 1

Sablan disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that, of the \$380.92 million the federal government gave the CNMI, the local Department of Labor is holding on to about \$190.89 million, which means only about \$190.03 has been released.

Sablan also stated that President Joe Biden has expressed his commitment for the Marianas to have access to the nationwide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Citing records provided him by the U.S. Department of Labor, Sablan said that, as of April 10, 2021, less than half the money the CNMI has received for unemployment assistance has been paid to those out of work, and that 2,435 applications for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation are still waiting to be processed.

At the same time, the delegate said the CNMI has gotten millions from the federal government to administer PUA and PFUC, including last week's grant of \$497,248.

He said it has been over a year since they made workers in the Marianas eligible for federal unemployment assistance—for the first time ever—in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. "By now, we should expect Commonwealth officials to have the program running without delay, so people get the help they need," Sablan said.

Saipan Tribune was still awaiting comments from Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente as of press time yesterday.

Last week, Benavente disclosed that they processed about 173,000 PUA claims and 114,000 FPUC claims a week before for Round 2 of PUA.

Benavente said the CNMI's number of PUA claims continue to re-

main at the same level as when the program was relaunched back in February 2021.

On the SNAP matter, Sablan said that Stacy Dean, U.S. Department of Agriculture deputy undersecretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, stated that Biden is fully committed to the territories having access to the federal nutrition programs that's similar to the states.

Sablan said Dean issued the statement in answer to chair Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Georgia) at a hearing of the agriculture appropriations subcommittee last Tuesday.

Sablan said this commitment from the Biden administration is good news for the Marianas, which remains one of three U.S. jurisdictions that is not part of the nationwide SNAP. "Instead, we receive a fixed block grant for food aid every year, which I have had to add to multiple times over the last two years as the pandemic economic downturn and the 2018 typhoons made more households eligible for help," Sablan said.

The delegate said he and Dean worked on the 2015 Farm Bill, which included extra funding for the Commonwealth's Nutrition Assistance Program.

He said he contacted Dean in December to ask for a commitment on SNAP, when the Biden transition team's announced Dean's appointment as deputy undersecretary. Since then, Sablan said, he and Dean met several times, along with Jessica Shahin, the national SNAP administrator, and regional administrator Jesus Mendoza to map out how to get the Marianas into SNAP.

Although the Agriculture secretary has the authority to extend SNAP to the Marianas, Sablan said he has also introduced H.R. 421, the AYUDA Act, to accomplish this goal. Sablan said appropriations chair Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Connecticut), Rules Committee chair Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Massachusetts), and other members of leadership are co-sponsors.

On Earth Day 2021, Kilili reintroduces shark fin sales ban

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Earth Day last week, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) and Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) reintroduced the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, which bans the buying and selling of shark fins in the United States. The same bill, introduced by Sablan and McCaul, had strong bipartisan support and passed in the last Congress, but the Senate took no action.

The act of shark finning—cutting off the fin of a shark and then discarding the maimed animal, often still alive, back to sea—is illegal in the United States. However, these wrongly obtained fins are still imported and exported on American soil, which serves to legitimize the unethical trade chiefly responsible for sharks' declining populations.

"The gruesome shark-finning practices are eliminating shark populations and putting many species on the brink of extinction," said McCaul. "Sharks play a vital role in our marine ecosystem, serving as an indicator of the overall health of our ocean. Thus, making this bipartisan legislation that much more important as it will promote conservation and responsible fishing practices that are good for the environment and our

Top shark catchers

Indonesia, which accounts for 13.2 percent of the global shark catch, was the top shark-catching country, with a yearly average of 109,248 tons of live shark caught. The global shark population, experts say, has declined due to the demand for fins, used as an ingredient in shark fin soup. The soup is a popular dish in many East Asian countries and in the United States.

Countries with top annual average shark catch

In tons of live catch, 2000-08

1	Indonesia	109,248 tons
2	India	74,050
3	Spain	59,777
4	Taiwan	47,635
5	Argentina	35,089
6	Mexico	33,971
7	Pakistan	32,277
8	U.S.	30,686
9	Japan	24,960
10	Malaysia	24,334

Source: Pew Charitable Trust

Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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economy."

"The strong, bipartisan support for this legislation sends a clear message that we have to pay more attention to protecting the Earth's oceans and the life within those oceans," said Sablan. "Banning the sale of shark fins to help end this wasteful and cruel practice is important, but just a small step on the way to giving the oceans the full respect they must have in federal law. Ultimately, all life on Earth depends on the health of the oceans."

Sablan and McCaul thanked Oceana, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, and the Animal Welfare Institute for those environmental organizations' work to build legislative support for the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act. One-hundred-four House members agreed to be original cosponsors when

the bill was introduced last week, more than twice the number of original cosponsors as in the last Congress.

"We're confident this Congress can get the bill passed," said Whitney Webber, campaign director at Oceana. "It's rare to find an issue that brings together the political, business and conservation communities. We applaud Reps. Sablan and McCaul for their continued leadership to take the United States out of the shark fin trade once and for all. We know the demand for fins is decimating shark populations around the world and this is a clear and easy way to help reduce it. It's time for the U.S. to once again be a leader in shark conservation. We must join our allies in Canada, who have closed their borders to the destructive shark fin trade and do

the same in the United States. We look forward to finding a path forward on this important issue that a majority of Americans support. The U.S. needs a fin ban now."

"Sharks are the ocean's premier apex species and yet they are being killed for their fins faster than they can reproduce. Today, we applaud Reps. Sablan and McCaul for reintroducing their bill with an additional 103 bipartisan cosponsors. Expedient passage of this legislation is critical to our oceans, because sharks are more valuable alive than in a bowl of soup," said Sara Amundson, president of the Humane Society Legislative Fund.

"Sharks have existed for hundreds of millions of years, and yet these remarkable apex predators now face one of the biggest threats to their survival because of the demand for their fins," said Animal Welfare Institute president Cathy Liss. "Although shark finning is banned in U.S. waters, the United States remains a transit hub for the fin trade. Passing legislation to combat the global shark fin trade is essential to protect sharks and maintain functioning marine ecosystems. We are grateful to Representatives Sablan and McCaul for their steadfast leadership."

Each year, 73 million shark fins end up on the global market—the United States contributes to this demand by importing fins, with 540,000 pounds imported in 2017, from around the world. This

legislation will still allow for commercial and recreational fishing of sharks but would end the harmful trade of shark fins—the leading cause of the inhumane practice of shark finning. (PR)

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CNMI-born sailor receives COVID-19 vaccine

PORTSMOUTH, Va.—A sailor from Saipan in the Northern Marianas Islands who is serving aboard one of the world's most powerful warships is one of more than 1,300 sailors to get the COVID-19 vaccine last week as the ship prepares to get back underway.

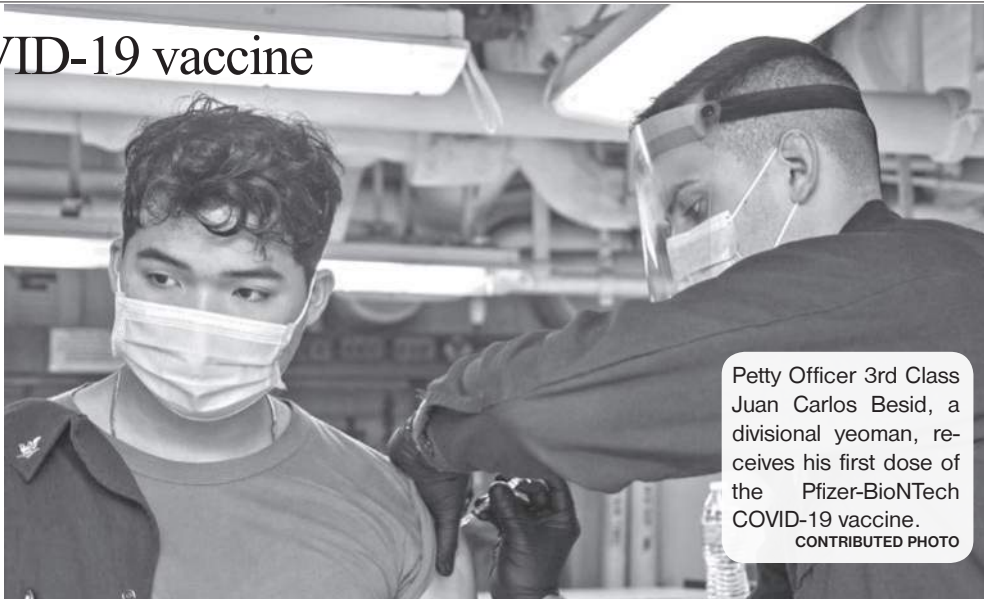
Serving aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), Petty Officer 3rd Class Juan Carlos Besid, a divisional yeoman, received his first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, which is voluntary

for all military members.

"I took the vaccine to ensure that I am safe around my family," said Besid. "My parents are 63 and 65 years old[and] I want to be able to protect them as much as possible."

The vaccine has proven to reduce the peril it places upon the mission and has been proven to be safe and effective.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to provide these vaccines to our sailors onboard," said Capt. Kavon Hakimzadeh, *Truman's* commanding officer. "It allows us a direct avenue to help defeat this pan-



Petty Officer 3rd Class Juan Carlos Besid, a divisional yeoman, receives his first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

demic and strengthen the USS *Harry S. Truman* team."

According to *Truman's* nurse, Lt. Kimberly Kozlows-

ki, a Saline, Michigan, sailor, there is an uptick in optimism to receive the vaccine because people are using the right

resources to get the right information.

"Great coordination was displayed given the fact that

more sailors wanted to receive the vaccine and we were able to provide doses for all those who wanted them," she said.

More than half of the personnel on *Truman* have now received at least the first dose of the vaccine, while some have received their second dose.

Those who have received the first dose of the vaccine can expect to receive the second dose within the next few weeks.

Truman is nearing the completion of its Extended Carrier Incremental Availability period in Norfolk Naval Shipyard and is expected to certify as a ready carrier this summer. (*MCS Seaman Christopher Suarez/USS Harry S. Truman*)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Jaypee N. Baysa) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
Petitioner,) NO. 21-0113
vs.) SUMMONS FOR
Qiaoling T. Baysa) PUBLICATION
Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504318 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Eva F. Dela Cruz
Emilia M. Clitar
P.O. Box 966 Rota, MP 96951
532-0362

PRO SE

IN THE SUPRIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter of the
Petition To Appoint General
Guardianship For:
M. A. M.
Minor Child,
By:
Eva Fuentes Dela Cruz
And Emilia Montes Clitar
Petitioners.

FCD GU
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 21-0154 R

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Rota Courtroom, before Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan.

Dated this 23rd day of April, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

High surf predicted until Tuesday

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6am Tuesday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, hazardous surf of 8

to 10 feet and dangerous rip currents will be present along north and west facing reefs of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota until 6am Tuesday.

Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents can drag you out to sea. Multiple swells generated by distant sub-tropical storm Surigae and a

large mid-latitude low will prolong hazardous surf conditions for the next few days.

Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are advised to avoid venturing out near reef lines facing north and west. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions. (*PR*)

MVA temporary office hours extended

The Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose, Saipan, will be open during limited morning hours from 8am to 12pm on April 26-30, 2021, for office inventory and assessment. For more information, contact the MVA at 664-3200/1 or info@mymarianas.com. (*PR*)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP21-CHCC/ELC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 4TH, 2021 TIME: 4:30PM (CHST)

"COMMUNITY DISEASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CDMS)"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID ITB21-CHCC/RHC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 6th, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"ROTA HEALTH CENTER-NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP21-DCCA/CCDF-076

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 12, 2021 • TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"TO IMPLEMENT THE CCDF's SCIENCE OF EARLY LEARNING (SOEL) INITIATIVE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN ON **MAY 03, 2021 AT 09:30 A.M.** CONTRACTOR MAY REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE VIA VIRTUAL OR REMOTE. IF REQUESTING VIA VIRTUAL OR REMOTE, REQUEST MUST BE MADE VIA EMAIL TO mloste.cnmicdf@gmail.com AT LEAST 3-WORKDAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED CONFERENCE. CALENDAR INVITE AND LINK WILL ONLY BE PROVIDED TO THOSE WHO REQUESTED PARTICIPATION VIA VIRTUAL OF REMOTE.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO **MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**, VIA EMAIL TO mloste.cnmicdf@gmail.com OR VIA FACSIMILE TO (670)-664-2547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON APRIL 28, 2021**. ALL QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.0-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

INVITATION FOR BIDS [IFB]

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC IFB 2021-010

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: May 26, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Apengahg St. and Ghilis St. Road and Drainage Improvement Project

Project package will be available on **April 26, 2021**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) is required for the project package. Payment must be by cash, credit card, cashier's check or certified check made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented in order to obtain the project package.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on May 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net by clicking on the "Procurement" menu tab or by visiting the www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com website. Bidders are encouraged to email the Procurement Officer of their intent to participate in the pre-bid conference via email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net at least one day before the conference. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com •
Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2021

Opening date: April 15, 2021 Closing date: May 05, 2021

Positions: (1) Grants Coordinator-Saipan
(1) Electrician-Saipan
(1) Ports Police Officer I-Saipan
(1) General Maintenance II-Rota Seaport

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 05, 2021**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Hitler arrested anew for vehicular theft

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hitler Weilbacher, whose previous vehicular theft case was dismissed with prejudice, was arrested again for allegedly stealing three vehicles back in February.

Hitler, 24, is accused of stealing three vehicles and driving without a license back in February.

Back in February 2020, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, dismissed with prejudice the theft of vehicle and assaulting a police officer charges against Weilbacher after a mental health evaluation found him incompetent to stand trial.

However, at around 10am on Feb. 23, 2021, a woman report-

ed a theft of vehicle incident at Winner's Laundry in Garapan.

She told police that her orange Toyota Tacoma had been stolen. Police later spotted the vehicle in Chalan Kiya where a felony stop was conducted. Police identified Weilbacher as the operator of the stolen vehicle and he was arrested.

Two other stolen vehicle incidents were reported to DPS on April 10 and 20, with Weilbacher as the suspect in both cases.

During a bail hearing last Wednesday, Camacho imposed a \$5,000 cash bail on Weilbacher.

Weilbacher's counsel, assistant public defender Veena Seelam, asked the court to release the defendant on his own recognizance. Camacho later denied this, stating that some-

one has to watch the defendant if he's released.

In addition, Camacho instructed Seelam to notify Weilbacher's parents that their son is in custody of the Department of Corrections.

The judge told Weilbacher to return to court on April 28 for a preliminary hearing and on April 29 for an arraignment.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, police arrested Weilbacher back in November 2017, shortly after he allegedly stole a Toyota 4-Runner from a parking lot of a store on Capital Hill.

Police also arrested him last in June of 2017 at Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Piao, where a stolen Toyota Highlander was recovered and later returned to the owner.

Woman's request for temporary release is denied

The U.S District Court for the NMI denied the request for an 18-hour release from custody of Vickilyn Ramonica Manglona Teregeyo, a defendant in a methamphetamine case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona denied Teregeyo's emergency motion for temporary release during a teleconference last Wednesday.

In her motion, Teregeyo asked for the 18-hour furlough so she could participate

with her family on Saipan in the memorial and viewing for her late grandmother, Vicenta Mendiola Cabrera Teregeyo, who passed away in Las Vegas, Nevada, on April 11, 2021.

The memorial was live-streamed. Teregeyo asked for her furlough to begin from 4pm Wednesday to 10am Thursday Saipan time.

According to her motion, Teregeyo was raised by her grandmother, and the two of them remained very close

through the years. Prior to her incarceration, Vickilyn spoke regularly with her grandmother.

Teregeyo is currently serving a three-month prison sentence for violating a mandatory condition on her conditional release.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, Teregeyo was convicted in Guam of the offense of drug user in possession of firearm and ammunition and was allowed to serve in the CNMI. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*



Elieco D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING INVASIVE UNGULATE CONTROL WITH PLANT MANAGEMENT ON AGUIGUAN ISLAND COASTAL PERMIT NO. TMS-2021-025

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Invasive Ungulate Control with Plant Management Project on Aguiguan Island.

The Office of the Mayor of Tinian is proposing to implement control measures on the effects of taking of the Micronesian megapode on Aguiguan Island. The Micronesian megapode (*Megapodius laperouse*) is a federally and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) listed endangered species. The purpose of this project is to create additional megapode habitat on Aguiguan Island, followed by plant management, and assist in ungulate control. Additional proposals include restoring forest habitat by installing fence units, and planting native overstory trees to regenerate naturally.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 5:00 PM.** The venue for this hearing will be announced at a later date. COVID-19 protocols will be implemented and all participants are required to wear a mask at all times. Participants may join virtually via Google Meet by accessing meet.google.com/kao-aaft-dij.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Invasive Ungulate Control with Plant Management Project.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-21-022

Installation of Primary Screen

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Primary Screen in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; the installation of a primary screen (OFCI), foundations, sewer piping, sewer valves and valve box, water service, electrical service, water booster pump, basket strainers, and rehabilitation and modification of existing improvements, along with other miscellaneous features, for one unit at Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi WWTP. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded through Saipan Local Law 20-19.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **April 21, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-21-022, Installation of Primary Screen" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 27, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-024

A&E Design Services for the Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) in coordination with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the following projects: Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement in Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from NMHC & HUD.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-024, A&E Design Services for Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 20, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC and NMHC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC and NMHC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 29, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer - via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior - via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC and NMHC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC and NMHC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 81

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Police reform must address roots of violence

Within hours of the guilty verdicts against former cop Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, police in Detroit shot and killed a man who had stabbed himself and was stabbing an officer.

At roughly the same time, a cop in Columbus, Ohio, had to make a split-second decision when confronted with a teen girl who was attacking another girl with a knife. He shot and killed her.

Both those instances highlight the challenges the nation faces as it attempts to curb police shootings. It's not all about regulating the police.

There are broader issues of mental health, poverty and the roots of violence that also must be addressed.

As Robert Bobb, the former emergency manager for the Detroit Public Schools, writes in Thursday's Think section, "perceiving the problem as primarily a policing matter ... is a false narrative."

Bobb, chairman of the Washington, D.C., police reform commission, advocates for a comprehensive approach that examines all the factors in a community that lead to violent confrontations between police and citizens.

Reform efforts that don't take into account mental health services, education and other social issues will not succeed.

That will take much more money and a lot more work than what Congress has offered in response to police shootings. Lawmakers so far are more interested in layering on more rules and red tape than finding a true fix.

Following the conclusion of the trial in Minneapolis, new calls have emerged for final passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which passed the House on a near straight Democratic vote in March.

The act offers some common sense measures, such as safeguards against turning police departments into paramilitary operations, limiting no-knock warrants, and requiring more body cameras. But it also includes elements that could compromise officer safety and place the public in greater danger.

Most concerning is the lifting of qualified immunity for officers, and de facto quotas to assure that departments aren't disproportionately arresting one demographic group over another.

These measures could serve to paralyze officers who often need to react in an instant to save their own lives or those of others.

But the biggest flaw in the act is that it pretends the problem rests largely with police and policing. It fails to acknowledge that police officers are the ones that have to deal with the consequences of an inadequate mental health system and insufficient social services.

Nothing in the Justice in Policing Act addresses the root causes of violence. That's why many civil rights organizations have worked against its passage.

More federal regulations on police departments will do little good without steps to improve the conditions that lead to confrontations between cops and citizens.

(c) 2021 The Detroit News



Give people a break from their smelly coffee breath. Ease up on the outdoor mask rules

With nearly 40% of people in the U.S. having received at least one shot of COVID-19 vaccine, you may be wondering if now is the time that California and other places ditch the mask mandates and free the people from the tyranny of having to breathe in our own smelly coffee breath.

The answer is: no way. What are you, a misanthrope?

But also, yes, it is time.

Let me explain. Until we reach the point where either enough people are vaccinated against COVID-19 or the only SARS-CoV-2 variant in circulation is no more dangerous than pink eye, mask mandates are one of our best defenses. And since we now know with confidence that transmission is primarily happening indoors, dumping mandates for enclosed public places like factories and airplanes would be reckless.

But it's entirely reasonable and, frankly, rational to relax the outdoor face covering rules as we head into warmer weather. There's very little point in forcing people to continue covering up to take a stroll down the street, hike in the park or sunbathe on a beach, which is still the law in California, when the risk of infection spreading this way is so low as to be negligible.

Now before anyone blasts off an angry note accusing me of being a COVID-19 denier, I'd like to point out that I was an early mask adopter during this pandemic, covering up outside even before it was fashionable. At that time, scientists weren't sure how COVID-19 was spreading, and some health officials were actually telling people to not use masks. But to me it just made sense to throw up a curtain between the access route to my respiratory system and the potentially dangerous microbes in the air.

It's pretty clear that some of the things we thought in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic weren't quite right. For example, the virus didn't end up spreading via surfaces. It wasn't only sick people who were capable of spreading infection. Bleach injections were not promising infection deterrents (to be fair, only one elected official actually suggested that). And it didn't spread much, if at all, in outdoor locations.

"There are estimates that suggest maybe 1 in 1,000 infections happen outside," Dr. Ashish Jha, a general internist and dean of Brown University's School of Public Health, told National Public Radio on Wednesday. And those are estimates, rather than documented cases of transmission.

"There are reasons to believe that ... if you're just out and about walking around, it's probably even much less than that," he said, adding that if transmission is happening outdoors, it's

By **MARIEL GARZA**

Los Angeles Times



Mariel Garza is a Los Angeles Times editorial writer.

more likely in a crowded places, like a rally, where people are congregating for extended periods.

Jha is one of a growing number of public health experts who see the benefit of easing blanket outdoor face mask requirements. It's a question that infectious disease officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are pondering as well.

But not all experts want to see exposed faces outside anytime soon. The reason is because, as Chicago internist Dr. Jay Bhatt put it, "the risk is not zero."

That may be true, but you know what else fails to drive the risk of COVID-19 infection to zero? Wearing a face covering. Getting vaccinated. Leaving the house. Not leaving the house.

There's always going to be at least a slight risk of infection, no matter how cautious we are. But restrictions are most effective when they focus on the riskiest activities rather than trying to reduce all risk to zero, which is impossible in any case.

It's also counterproductive to force heavy-handed restrictions on people when there's no evidence they are necessary. It miscommunicates the real risk for infection to those who aren't up on the facts, while just annoying those who are.

Case in point: California health officials decided to shut down outdoor playgrounds along with all sorts of other public locations last fall as COVID-19 cases began spiking. But they did so despite the fact that there was no evidence that monkey bars and swing sets are COVID-19 vectors, and people knew it.

The backlash from frustrated parents was so swift and severe (and justified) that the ill-advised action was almost immediately reversed. It makes you wonder how many people decided at that moment that public health officials just didn't know what they were talking about and stopped following any of their advice.

C'mon, it's time to ease up on the face mask rules for outdoors. It's time to give the people who have been faithfully following face masks protocols a low-risk break.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Programmatic Agreement: An expression of power, privilege, and domination by the Pentagon

The Final Programmatic Agreement, or “PA,” is a document made up of a final PA section and four appendices—A, B, C, and D. Last month we talked about the final PA section and appendix A. Today we will complete a cursory discussion of appendices B, C, and D, closing with some thoughts on the need to further demystify, improve, and incorporate Chamorro perspectives into the PA.

Appendix B: What is it?

Appendix B is a five-page document titled “Standard Operating Procedure Regarding the Discovery of Human Remains on Guam.” It lays out a four-step process for how to manage the uncovering of human skeletal remains. The steps are: 1) initial discovery, 2) preliminary identification, 3) identification, age of deposition (time-period) and ethnicity, and 4) disposition.

Step I - Initial Discovery and Step II - Preliminary Identification lay down responsibilities to be performed by the military. These steps do not contain language that addresses how the government of Guam involves itself in determining whether remains are human or animal. Language explaining when the government of Guam representative is to take the lead or be a co-decision maker on discovery matters is missing.

Step III - Identification, Age of Deposition (time-period) and Ethnicity assigns advantage to an archaeologist to identify remains based solely on American national government qualifications for the job. It is presumed that this archaeologist is on the military’s payroll. If this is correct, it makes the archaeologist an individual who is not incentivized to represent the interests of the ancient Chamorro people of Guam.

Step III includes a few lines referencing how the government of Guam will be involved on matters of disposition. The State Historic Preservation Office is given little or no power throughout this appendix and our ancient Chamorro people are not afforded real and equal say when it comes to how skeletal remains are identified, deposited, and managed.

Non-federal government organizations who have an interest in Chamorro ancestral remains must submit written requests to SHPO if they want to involve themselves in the consultative process. This makes little sense, and it also provides cover for the Navy to indirectly discourage outside parties and the public from gaining fuller comprehensions of our ancestral remains, through how SHPO is positioned in the administrative control process.

Step IV - Disposition cites one government of Guam policy

guideline and two federal statutes that cover archeological matters. The Navy maintains total control of the process. The language contained in Step IV is framed and intended to heavily benefit the military because all decisions regarding military-sponsored destructive clearing actions are made based on whether the military decides if it will or if will not entertain modifications to planned work.

Appendix C: What is it?

Appendix C represents the stated belief of the military that the signing and implementation of the PA has satisfied Sections 106 and 110(f) responsibilities for all military training and testing areas in Guam and surrounding waters. The appendix states that the compliance documents are the 2010 MIRC EIS/OEIS, the 2015 MITT EIS/OEIS, and the 2020 MITT SEIS. Only one reference is made to a government of Guam guideline.

Appendix D: What is it?

Appendix D is a named listing of 32 archeological or cultural resource reports produced over a 22-year period. One individual co-authored nine reports, another co-authored four reports, and several individuals co-wrote two reports. It appears that no Chamorros authored or co-wrote any of the reports. No citations are provided which shows the participation of island fisherman, elders, farmers, ranchers, Chamorro healers, policy makers, the Guam Mayors Council, or the governor.

Some final observations

The entire Final PA document cited the word “Chamorro” once in appendix B. The word “Chamorro” is not mentioned in appendices A, C, and D and in the Final PA section. Several federal statutes, environmental impact statements made up of thousands of pages, and one government of Guam reference are cited.

Appendices give full power and advantage to the American national government, its employees/representatives, and its cultural resource managers while extending little, if any, meaningful participation, and decision-making power to the government of Guam representative[s]. The Chamorro people of Guam are made invisible throughout this document because our people, language, and culture are omitted in the body’s content.

Definitions of terms used throughout the Final PA are absent. Icons, symbols, vertical legends, and horizontal legends found in all PowerPoint maps have no glossaries. The quality of visual

RICK’S COLUMN

By **RICK PEREZ**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

locational information embedded in the PowerPoint pictures makes it impossible for the public to clearly and specifically understand where most or all site locations are in relation to village areas, the aquifer system, and microenvironments.

No specific explanations are given on fire, storm capture, water runoff, or human health risks to villagers, military personnel, and the environment. Language is missing that outlines liquid waste, solid waste, aerosolized waste, weight equivalents, and chemical compositions that are or will be produced and released into the environment.

The document is a representation of the violation of our human rights as ancient Chamorro Pacific Islanders, and because of this, the Final PA can be interpreted as an assault to our collective intelligence and rightful place as the only ancient Pacific Islander civilization that is most deeply rooted and solely indigenous to the Marianas archipelago.

Opportunities to improve the Final PA abound. Considerations include simplifying, reorganizing, or discarding the entire document, or producing major changes to the existing document to include several addenda, reflecting the unheard and legitimate needs, concerns, and desires of our ancient blue ocean continent civilization.

Until this document reflects and incorporates the concerns of our people of the southernmost Marianas Island of Guam in a readily understood fashion, and until the public comprehends to what extent the Pentagon is influencing, directing and/or pressuring the governor of Guam and SHPO to act or speak on its behalf, the work of the Final PA and its appendices remains unfinished and incomplete.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

The Bicol Association Mariana Islands, Inc., or BAMI Inc., would like to say thank you to all those who supported us during our fundraising activities for the benefit of victims of typhoons Rolly and Ulysses in the Bicol region. Our mission to extend in-kind support to severely affected families in Bicol will not be possible without your untiring support.

These photos show the actual distribution of food items for the “Adopt a Family, Tabang Bicol” relief drive. The relief distribution drive took place in Nato, a coastal town in Sangay, Partido, Camarines Sur. As of this writing, the same town is currently experiencing hardship due to a massive flooding because of Typhoon Bising.

The president of the Nato town Parish Council Organization, headed by Jun Rivero and Ana Fuentebella, led a group of volunteers for the distributions of relief goods to about 400 families in these coastal areas. Kudos to BAMI Inc. treasurer Loida Fuentevilla and her family member in Sangay who unselfishly facilitated the distribution of “Adopt a Family, Tabang Bicol” relief operations. BAMI, Inc. delivered every penny that you entrusted us.

Again, thank you all for your support. This is the first, among our series of relief drives. There will be more to follow in the next couple of days because a generous construction company in Garapan who happens to be a Bicolano has donated huge amount for the same purpose. We are now working on it in other provinces in the Bicol region.



Special thanks to BAMI Inc. president Noel Ordas, board chair Jimmy B, officers Boyet Escobar, Marlon Regaton, VP Jordan Danao, Walter Brillo, Jun and Sandra Miday, Zumba Dance group headed by Bobby and wife, Ms. Dorothy Jones, UFO headed by president Mar Masilungan, Mafea headed by former president Birhen and Bong Martinez, McPhetres Foundation, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Emon Masonic Lodge 179,






and to those who purchased Tabang Bicol T-shirts, among others, thank you very much.

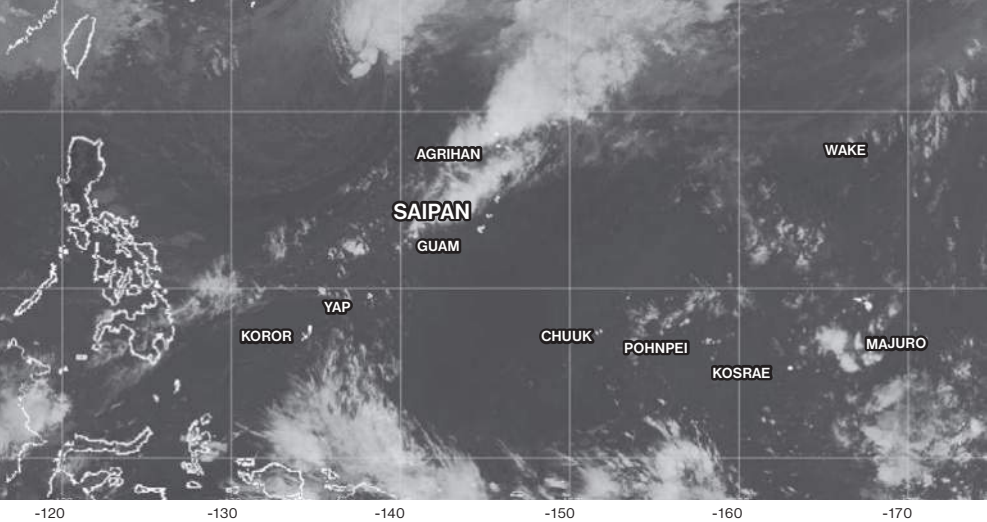
Mabalos saindo gabos and mabuhay!

Carlito J. Marquez

Acting Secretary
(on behalf of) BAMI, Inc., Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	77°	86°	76°	86°	76°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:18 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Clear skies over the Marianas are being encroached on from the west by a monsoon-like trough that is associated with Subtropical Storm Surigae. Buoys are beginning to spike as swells from the distant Surigae and a mid- latitude cyclone reach the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° 79°F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° 78°F	
Yap	Rain	88° 71°F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° 80°F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° 79°F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° 80°F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° 80°F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:05 AM	5:42 PM
Tuesday	-	5:50 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	-	6:39 AM	7:48 PM
Thursday	-	7:32 AM	8:54 PM
Friday	-	8:29 AM	10:00 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	69° 52°F	
Beijing	Sunny	72° 48°F	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	78 75 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85 73 °F	
London	Sunny	54 36 °F	
Los Angeles	Clear	73 60 °F	
Manila	Clear	95 79 °F	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	66 47 °F	
Miami	Clear	83 66 °F	
New York	Clear	52 50 °F	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	72 58 °F	
Paris	Clear	52 32 °F	
Pusan	Clear	74 52 °F	
Rome	Sunny	67 53 °F	
Salem	Light Rain	54 44 °F	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61 54 °F	
Seoul	Clear	68 47 °F	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	66 57 °F	
Washington, DC	Overcast	58 56 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:39 AM	Low Tide	0.44	
6:45 AM	High Tide	2.09	
1:14 PM	Low Tide	0.27	
7:24 PM	High Tide	2.06	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
				1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
				1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri				
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun				

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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PSS honors its administrative professionals



PHOTOS BY PSS

Dorsha Palacio (Tinian Elementary School) Melba Vilaga (PSS Procurement and Supply), Julie Camacho (Tanapag Middle School), and Josefa "Josie" Mikel (William S. Reyes Elementary School).

The Public School System and the Board of Education honored the school district's administrative personnel last Friday in an activity that gathered all of Saipan, Tinian and Rota public schools and central office front-line office workers in one celebration.

Facilitated by the PSS' Human Resources Office led by director Lucretia B. Deleon Guerrero and Finance and Budget Office led by director Arlene Lizama, the 2021 Administrative Professionals Professional Development activity was held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

This was the first time that a state-wide activity was held to honor the "backbone" of the school district. Administrative Professionals Day used to be celebrated individually at the school level.

"It is your organizational skills and commitment in ensuring the day-to-day operations of our 20 elementary, middle and high schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, and our PSS Central Office are running efficiently and effectively," said Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada in his impromptu remarks

honoring the more than 80 administrative personnel in attendance. "You all are a key part in the overall success of our school district."

Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini praised these men and women as the "critical component" that ensures every "child that attends PSS receives the quality education that they deserve."

"You are all incredible, hard working professionals that we couldn't thank enough for your service to the children of this Commonwealth," Orsini said.

A Professional Development Program was held to serve as a "refresher" to all of PSS' administrative professionals. They include "Time and Attendance," and Policy and Procedures on Certification, Overtime and Compensation Time. These series of essential topics were jointly presented by the PSS HRO and Finance and Budget Office.

PSS legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu also held a question-and-answer with the staff.

Donald San Nicolas, the 2021 State Support Staff of the Year, delivered the closing remarks. (PSS)



Valerie Malwelbug, Jocelyn Saures and Nikita Robert (all from Board of Education), Charlene Valle (Oleai Elementary School), Olive Bateman (Tanapag Middle school), and Elizabeth Romolor (PSS Federal Programs Office).



Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, second from left, joins Lorian Mesngon (Sinapalo Elementary School), Vanessa Lizama and Tatiana Palacios (both from Head Start/Early Head Start), Roque Pulido (William S. Reyes Elementary School), and Demy Catubay (Sinapalo Elementary School).



Jenevieve Cruz (Kagman High School), Emilisa B. Norita (Marianas High School), PollyAnn Iakopo (Marianas High School), and Victoria Apatang (Saipan Southern High School).



Patty Aguon-Cruz (Office of Curriculum and Instruction), 2021 State Support Staff of the Year Donald San Nicolas (San Vicente Elementary School), and Elsa Lynn C. Pangelinan (Procurement & Supply).



Special Education Program Central Office: Natalie Suda, Esther Tilipao, Lorie Baulechong, and director Donna Flores.



Kaydee Manglona (Sinapalo Elementary School), Vilma Castro and Melba Village (both of PSS Procurement & Supply), Esther Tilipao and Natalie Suda (both of Special Education Program).



Kevin Adachi (Koblerville Elementary School), Femie Rey (Hopwood Middle School), Ruby Hocog (Hopwood Middle School), Vilhelma A. Manglona (Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School), and Laura Matsunaga (Garapan Elementary School).



Dorsha Guinto (Saipan Southern High School), Elizabeth B. Aguon (AmeriCorps Program), and Mary Jane Taitano (Chacha Oceanview Middle School).



Finance and Budget Team: Catherine Regalado (accountant), Ronna Erich (accountant), Naydine Aguon (payroll supervisor), D'anna Tudela and Fidelia Mafnas (personnel specialist) and Leslie Ada (personnel specialist).



Bobby Coldeen (Board of Education), Mona Maratita (Saipan Southern High School), Myrna Babauta (Student Support and Services), Denicia Dela Cruz (IT&DE), and Crispin Deleon Guerrero, Jr. (Personal Responsibility Education Program)



Finance and Budget director Arlene Lizama and Human Resources Office director Lucretia Deleon Guerrero.



From Head Start and Early Head Start Program: Lathania Santos (director), Kimberly Duenas (health manager), Paulani Palacios (education manager), and Jolene Sablan (family manager).



Board of Education vice chair Sgt. Maj. Herman Atalig (ret.), Mona Maratita (Saipan Southern High School), and Vilhelma Manglona (Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School).



Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini, standing, celebrates with Denicia Dela Cruz (Instructional Technology & Distance Education Program) and Myrna Babauta (Student Support and Services).



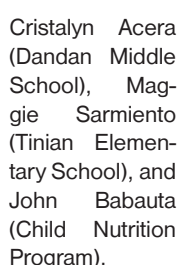
Bernice Babauta, not in photo, (Kagman High School), Angelica Atalig (GTC Elementary School), Shirley Cepeda (Tinian Jr. Sr. High School), Jose Mikel (WSR Elementary School), and Alby Menor (Koblerville Elementary School).



Aurelia Marie Iguel (Office of Pupil Transportation), Marie C. Quitugua (Federal Programs Office), Laila Manibusan (Tinian Jr. Sr. High School), and Lorie Baulechong (Special Education Program)



Valerie T. Dela Cruz (Tinian Jr./Sr. High School), Caitlin Tinney (PSS Human Resources Office), Louie Bautista (Kagman Elementary School), and Maria "Angie" Among (Chacha Oceanview Middle School)



Cristalyn Acera (Dandan Middle School), Maggie Sarmiento (Tinian Elementary School), and John Babauta (Child Nutrition Program).

Evonne Cabrera and Kimberly Camacho, both seated, from the Office of the Commissioner of Education. Standing: Nikita Robert and Jocelyn Saures, both from the CNMI Board of Education.

Business

WITH OK FROM EXPERTS

Some states resume use of J&J vaccine

NEW YORK (AP)—With a green light from federal health officials, many states resumed use of the one-shot Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine on Saturday. Among the venues where it was being deployed: the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Among the other states ordering or recommending a resumption, along with Indiana, were Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Those moves came swiftly after U.S. health officials said Friday evening that they were lifting an 11-day pause on vaccinations using the J&J vaccine. During the pause, scientific advisers decided the vaccine's benefits outweigh a rare risk of blood clot.

"The state of New York will resume administration of this vaccine at all of our state-run sites effective immediately," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a statement Saturday morning.

"The vaccine is the weapon that will win the war against COVID and allow everyone to resume normalcy, and we have three proven vaccines at our disposal," Cuomo said, urging New York residents to take whichever one is available to them first.

"The sooner we all get vaccinated, the sooner we can put the long COVID nightmare behind

us once and for all," he said.

The Indiana Department of Health announced resumption of a free COVID-19 mass vaccination clinic Saturday at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, offering the J&J vaccine to anyone 18 or older. The clinic will be operating at least through April 30, when there will be a family vaccination day at which 16- and 17-year-olds also can be vaccinated.

"I can't think of a better way to welcome the month of May in Indiana than getting your vaccine this week at the Yard of Bricks," said Dr. Chris Weaver, chief clinical officer for Indiana University Health, which is partnering with the state in running the speedway clinic.

By early afternoon, 1,415 doses had been administered at the speedway, the Indiana Health Department said.

Virginia health officials also told providers to immediately resume their use of the J&J vaccine.

"This extra scrutiny should instill confidence in the system that is in place to guarantee COVID-19 vaccine safety," said Dr. Danny Avula, the state's vaccine coordinator. "As with any vaccine, we encourage individuals to educate themselves on any potential side effects and to weigh that against the possibility of hospitalization or death from COVID-19."

Avula received the J&J vac-

cine himself on April 1.

Missouri officials made a similar announcement, saying providers with J&J vaccine in stock can immediately begin administering it and that shipments from the federal government will resume next week.

Just over 105,000 doses of J&J had been administered in Missouri before the pause.

In Michigan, where local health departments have a key role in vaccination decision-making, the state's chief medical executive, Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, recommended resuming use of the J&J vaccine.

In Los Angeles County, the nation's most populous county, public health officials told vaccine providers they could resume administering J&J doses on Saturday, as long as they provided an updated fact sheet to recipients.

Dr. Paul Simon, chief science officer for the county's Department of Public Health, said the county has been working on developing additional materials to explain the clotting issue that prompted the pause.

Those will "include what we think is really important information about what to look for—the signs and symptoms if you were to have this, again, very rare reaction," he said. "And we are going to underscore that this is a very rare reaction."

Biden working group targets jobs for fossil fuel communities

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—Six large regions nationwide that have economies reliant on fossil fuels have been targeted for federal investment and aid to create renewable energy jobs, as detailed in a new report from President Joe Biden's administration.

The report released Friday is part of Biden's plan to reduce America's use of coal and other fossil fuels in order to fight climate change. The White House held a global summit this week and Biden announced he intends to cut U.S. coal and petroleum emissions in half by 2030.

The report, from a working group comprising several federal agencies, identifies \$37.9 billion in currently available funding across a wide variety of departments that can help support job creation, rural infrastructure and reclaiming abandoned mine lands.

"President Biden is committed to providing federal leadership in partnership with coal, oil and gas, and power plant com-

munities to create good-paying union jobs, spur economic revitalization, remediate environmental degradation, and support energy workers," the report says.

One of the hardest-hit areas is coal country. The report seeks an immediate focus on the 25 most coal-dependent areas, with Appalachia top of the list, in addition to Alaska and states in the west such as Wyoming and Utah. The Department of Energy will begin taking applications for a \$75 million fund for carbon capture and storage technology, the report says.

Another \$19.5 million in awards will be available for extracting critical minerals that can be used to develop batteries, magnets and components for electric vehicles.

The report also identifies available funding and grants to expand rural broadband, upgrade water treatment facilities affected by coal and promote infrastructure projects that can create jobs.

It is the group's first report on coal and power plant com-

munities since Biden's executive order in late January that aims at "tackling the climate crisis at home and abroad."

Experts say greenhouse gas emissions are heating the Earth's climate dangerously and worsening floods, droughts and other natural disasters.

The group plans to hold a series of town hall meetings between Biden officials and the top coal communities, which also include areas in Illinois, New Mexico, Arizona, Indiana and Texas.

Coal employment has declined from 175,000 jobs in 1985 to 40,000 jobs in 2020, according to the report.

In West Virginia, Republican leaders have opposed the Democratic president's climate change agenda. Republican Attorney General Patrick Morrisey said Friday he could go to court to fight against Biden's pledged "transformational changes" to reduce pollutants.

"We should not be rushing to this plan for 2030," Morrisey said.

Nation

IN FATAL SHOOTING

Sheriff seeks release of body cam video

A North Carolina sheriff whose deputies shot and killed a Black man while serving warrants said Saturday that he will ask a court to release body camera video as soon as he's confident it won't compromise an investigation into how the shooting happened.

The statement comes as the sheriff faces sharp criticism and calls for transparency.

Pasquotank County Sheriff Tommy Wooten II said in a recorded video statement that he would ask a local judge as early as Monday to allow the release of deputy body camera footage of Wednesday's shooting death of Andrew Brown Jr. Wooten said that he would first check with the State Bureau of Investigation, which is probing the shooting, to make sure that releasing the video would not hamper their efforts.

"Only a judge can release the video. That's why I've asked the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation to confirm for me that the releasing of the video will not undermine their investigation. Once I get that confirmation, our county will file a motion in court, hopefully Monday, to have the footage



AP

Kirk Rivers addresses demonstrators outside City Hall as they await members of the city council who held an emergency meeting on Friday, April 23, 2021, in Elizabeth City, N.C., in regards to the death of Andrew Brown Jr., who was shot and killed by a Pasquotank County Deputy Sheriff earlier in the week.

released," he said.

Asked for comment on Wooten's remarks, SBI spokeswoman Anjanette Grube referred back to a statement earlier in the week that said "it is not the SBI's decision as to when and how body camera video is released." The statement directed questions about the footage back to the sheriff and local prosecutor.

Wooten released the statement just after a family attorney, local clergy and civil rights leaders including the Rev. William Barber II, who leads the Poor People's Campaign, held a news conference to demand that the

footage be released.

Seven deputies have been placed on leave amid indications, including emergency scanner traffic and an eyewitness account, that Brown was shot in the back as he tried to drive away in an Elizabeth City neighborhood.

"America, here is the issue: a warrant is not a license to kill, even if a suspect supposedly drives away," Barber said at the news conference attended by several of Brown's children and other family members.

"A warrant is not permission to shoot someone," he added.

The big Pentagon internet mystery now partially solved

BOSTON (AP)—A very strange thing happened on the internet the day President Joe Biden was sworn in. A shadowy company residing at a shared workspace above a Florida bank announced to the world's computer networks that it was now managing a colossal, previously idle chunk of the internet owned by the U.S. Department of Defense.

That real estate has since more than quadrupled to 175 million addresses—about 1/25th the size of the current internet.

"It is massive. That is the biggest thing in the history of the internet," said Doug Madory, director of internet analysis at Kentik, a network operating company. It's also more than twice the size of the internet space actually used by the Pentagon.

After weeks of wonder by the networking community, the Pentagon has now provided a very terse explanation for what it's doing. But it has not answered many basic questions, beginning with why it chose to entrust management

of the address space to a company that seems not to have existed until September.

The military hopes to "assess, evaluate and prevent unauthorized use of DoD IP address space," said a statement issued Friday by Brett Goldstein, chief of the Pentagon's Defense Digital Service, which is running the project. It also hopes to "identify potential vulnerabilities" as part of efforts to defend against cyber-intrusions by global adversaries, who are consistently infiltrating U.S. networks, sometimes operating from unused internet address blocks.

The statement did not specify whether the "pilot project" would involve outside contractors.

The Pentagon periodically contends with unauthorized squatting on its space, in part because there has been a shortage of first-generation internet addresses since 2011; they now sell at auction for upwards of \$25 each.

Madory said advertising the address space will make it easier to chase off squatters

and allow the U.S. military to "collect a massive amount of background internet traffic for threat intelligence."

Some cybersecurity experts have speculated that the Pentagon may be using the newly advertised space to create "honeypots," machines set up with vulnerabilities to draw hackers. Or it could be looking to set up dedicated infrastructure—software and servers—to scour traffic for suspect activity.

"This greatly increases the space they could monitor," said Madory, who published a blog post on the matter Saturday.

What a Pentagon spokesman could not explain Saturday is why the Defense Department chose Global Resource Systems LLC, a company with no record of government contracts, to manage the address space.

"As to why the DoD would have done that I'm a little mystified, same as you," said Paul Vixie, an internet pioneer credited with designing its naming system and the CEO of Farsight Security.

World

FROM SCARCITY TO ABUNDANCE:

US faces calls to share vaccines

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Victor Guevara knows people his age have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in many countries. His own relatives in Houston have been inoculated.

But the 72-year-old Honduran lawyer, like so many others in his country, is still waiting. And increasingly, he is wondering why the United States is not doing more to help, particularly as the American vaccine supply begins to outpace demand and doses that have been approved for use elsewhere in the world, but not in the U.S., sit idle.

"We live in a state of defenselessness on every level," Guevara said of the situation in his Central American homeland.

Honduras has obtained a paltry 59,000 vaccine doses for its 10 million people. Similar gaps in vaccine access are found across Africa, where just 36 million doses have been acquired for the continent's 1.3 billion people, as well as in parts of Asia.

In the United States, more than one-fourth of the population—nearly 90 million people—has been fully vaccinated and supplies are so robust that some states are turning

down planned shipments from the federal government.

This stark access gap is prompting increased calls across the world for the U.S. to start shipping vaccine supplies to poorer countries. That's creating an early test for President Joe Biden, who has pledged to restore American leadership on the world stage and prove to wary nations that the U.S. is a reliable partner after years of retrenchment during the Trump administration.

J. Stephen Morrison, senior vice president and director of the Global Health Policy Center at the Center for Strategic & International Studies in Washington, said that as the U.S. moves from vaccine scarcity to abundance, it has an opportunity to "shape the outcomes dramatically in this next phase because of the assets we have."

Biden, who took office in January as the virus was raging in the U.S., has responded cautiously to calls for help from abroad.

He has focused the bulk of

his administration's vaccination efforts at home. He kept in place an agreement struck by the Trump administration requiring drugmakers that got U.S. aid in developing or expanding vaccine manufacturing to sell their first doses produced in the country to the U.S. government. The U.S. has also used the Defense Production Act to secure vital supplies for the production of vaccine, a move that has blocked the export of some supplies outside the country.

White House aides have argued that Biden's cautious approach to promises around vaccine supply and delivery was validated in the wake of manufacturing issues with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and the subsequent safety "pause" to investigate a handful of reported blood clots. In addition, officials say they need to maintain reserves in the U.S. to vaccinate teenagers and younger children once safety studies for those age groups are completed and if booster shots should be re-

quired later.

The White House is aware that the rest of the world is watching. Last month, the U.S. shared 4 million vaccine doses with neighboring Canada and Mexico, and this past week, Biden said those countries would be targets for additional supplies. He also said countries in Central America could receive U.S. vaccination help, though officials have not detailed any specific plans.

The lack of U.S. vaccine assistance around the world has created an opportunity for China and Russia, which have promised millions of doses of domestically produced shots to other countries, though there have been production delays that have hampered the delivery of some supplies. China's foreign minister Wang Yi said this month that China opposes "vaccine nationalism" and that vaccines should become a global public good.

Professor Willem Hanekom, director of the Africa Health Research Institute and a vaccinologist, said wealthy coun-

tries have a stake in the success of vaccination efforts in other corners of the world.

"Beyond the moral obligation, the problem is that if there is not going to be control of the epidemic globally, this may ultimately backfire for these rich countries, if in areas where vaccines are not available variants emerge against which the vaccines might not work," Hanekom said.

The U.S. has also faced criticism that it is not only hoarding its own stockpiles, but also blocking other countries from accessing vaccines, including through its use of the law that gives Washington broad authority to direct private companies to meet the needs of the national defense.

Adar Poonawalla, chief executive of the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest maker of vaccines and a critical supplier of the U.N.-backed COVAX facility, asked Biden on Twitter on April 16 to lift the U.S. embargo on exporting raw materials needed to make the jabs.

India is battling the world's fastest pace of spreading infections. Its government has blocked vaccine exports for several months to better meet needs at home, exacerbating the difficulty of poor countries to access vaccine.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 2020 annual report also raised eyebrows for a section titled "Combating malignant influences in the Americas," which said the U.S. had convinced Brazil to not buy the Russian shot.

The U.S. Embassy denied exerting any pressure regarding vaccines approved by Brazil's health regulator, which has not yet signed off on Sputnik V. Since March 13, Brazil has been trying to negotiate supply of U.S. surplus vaccines for itself, according to the foreign ministry.

There are also concerns that the U.S. might link vaccine sharing to other diplomatic efforts. Washington's loan of 2.7 million doses of AstraZeneca's shots to Mexico last month came on the same day Mexico announced it was restricting crossings at its southern border, an effort that could help decrease the number of migrants seeking entry into the United States.

Those sort of parallel tracks of diplomacy will be closely watched as the Biden administration decides with whom to share its surplus vaccine, particularly in Central America, home to many countries where migrant families and unaccompanied children are trying to make their way to the U.S.

Indonesia navy declares lost sub with 53 aboard sunk

BANYUWANGI, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's navy on Saturday declared its missing submarine had sunk and cracked open after finding items from the vessel over the past two days, apparently ending hope of finding any of the 53 crew members alive.

Military chief Hadi Tjahjanto said the presence of an oil slick as well as debris near the site where the submarine last dove Wednesday off the island of Bali were clear proof the KRI Nanggala 402 had sunk. Indonesian officials earlier considered the vessel to be only missing, but said the submarine's oxygen supply would have run out early Saturday.

Navy Chief of Staff Adm. Yudo Margono said at a press conference in Bali, "If it's an explosion, it will be in pieces. The cracks happened gradually in some parts when it went down from 300 meters to 400 meters to 500 meters. ... If there was an explosion, it would be heard by the sonar."

The navy previously said it believes the submarine sank to a depth of 600-700 meters (2,000-2,300 feet), much deeper than its collapse depth of 200 meters (655 feet), at which point water pressure would be greater than the hull could withstand.

"With the authentic evidence we found believed to be

from the submarine, we have now moved from the 'sub miss' phase to 'sub sunk,'" Margono said at the press conference, in which the found items were displayed.

The cause of the disappearance was still uncertain. The navy had previously said an electrical failure could have left the submarine unable to execute emergency procedures to resurface.

Margono said that in the past two days, searchers found parts of a torpedo straightener, a grease bottle believed to be used to oil the periscope, debris from prayer rugs and a broken piece from a coolant pipe that was refitted on the submarine in South Korea in 2012.

Margono said rescue teams from Indonesia and other countries will evaluate the findings. He said no bodies have been found so far.

An American reconnaissance plane, a P-8 Poseidon, landed early Saturday and had been set to join the search, along with 20 Indonesian ships, a sonar-equipped Australian warship and four Indonesian aircraft.

Singaporean rescue ships were also expected Saturday, while Malaysian rescue vessels were due to arrive Sunday, bolstering the underwater hunt, officials said earlier Saturday.

Family members had held

out hopes for survivors but there were no sign of life from the vessel. Indonesian President Joko Widodo had ordered all-out efforts to locate the submarine and asked Indonesians to pray for the crew's safe return.

The German-built diesel-powered KRI Nanggala 402 had been in service in Indonesia since 1981 and was carrying 49 crew members and three gunners as well as its commander, the Indonesian Defense Ministry said.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation with more than 17,000 islands, has faced growing challenges to its maritime claims in recent years, including numerous incidents involving Chinese vessels near the Natuna islands.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

†Antonio Cepeda Tomokane


We, the family would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we remember the passing of our beloved one.

Daily mass of intentions will be offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021 through April 26, 2021. On the final day, Tuesday, April 27th mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. followed by his Military Honors ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Jovita Blanco Tomokane & Family



Health & Wellness

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MAYO CLINIC Q AND A

Staying active while working from home

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I have been working from home for months now. I want to start being more active, especially because my work often requires that I sit at my desk for long periods of time. Are there any easy ways for me to add fitness into my home routine?

ANSWER: Sitting at a desk all day can be harder than it sounds. Sitting in one position for a long period of time puts a lot of strain on the body, and can leave you feeling stiff, sore and tired.

An easy way to break this cycle is by getting up to move every half-hour or so. This could mean simply standing up and walking to the kitchen for a drink of water. Or if you have stairs in the home, walk up and down a few times to get some movement.

You also can stand and perform stretches while on a Zoom call. If you aren't required to be on video all the time, consider donning a pair of headphones and walking around your home as you listen to a conference call.

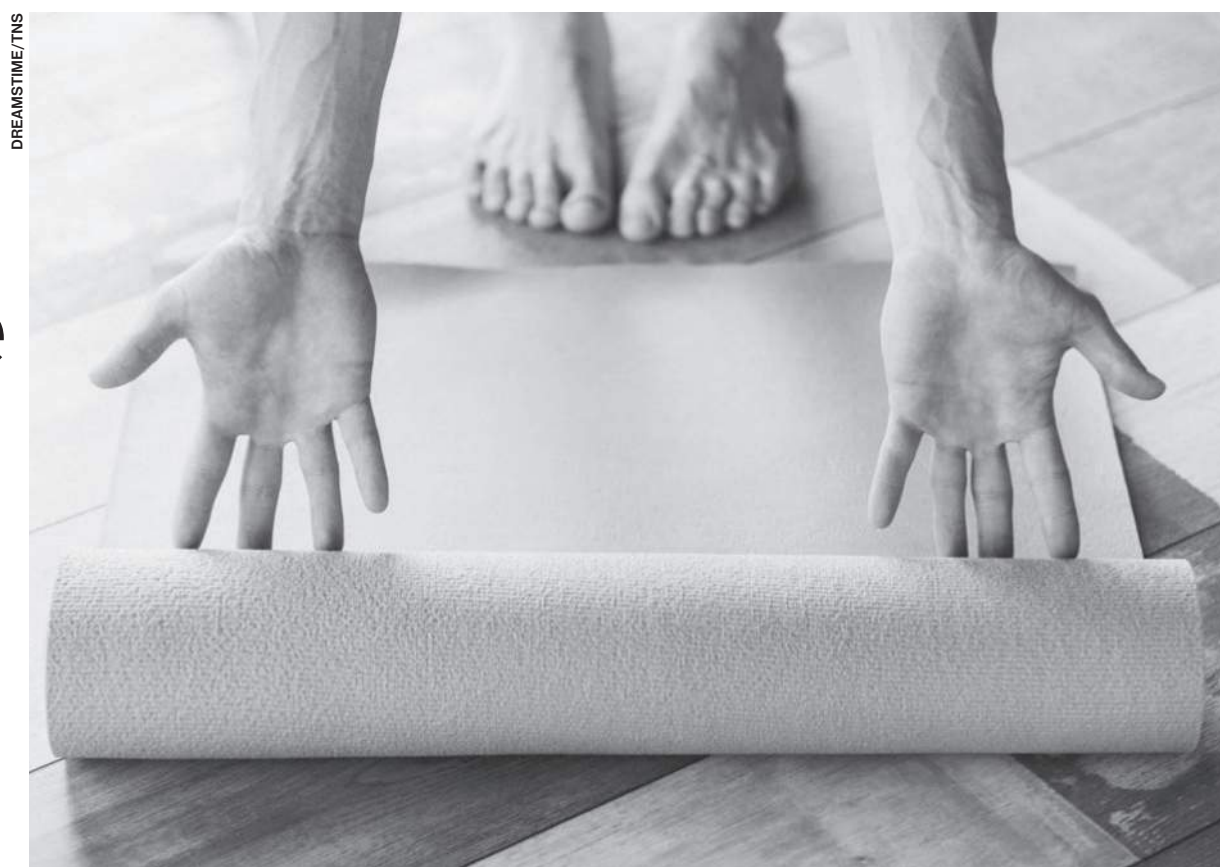
A small amount of movement and stretching throughout the day can

help you stay alert and focused. Consider these basic stretches that can be performed as often or as little as you want from the comfort of your home-based work area:

Neck stretches: For neck stretches, bring your chin to your chest and hold for 15 to 30 seconds. Rotate your head to the left and then to the right, holding 15 to 30 seconds on each side. Lastly, tilt your head to the side, leaning your ear toward your shoulder—again for 15 to 30 seconds on each side.

Standing stretches: While standing, put a hand on a nearby desk or chair to stabilize yourself. Bend one leg, grab your ankle and pull it toward your buttock. Hold this position for 15 to 30 seconds and then repeat on the other side. Next stand with feet hip-width apart and arms crossed across your chest. Twist to the left and then to the right, holding for 30 seconds on each side.

Seated stretches: While seated, bring one of your knees toward your chest. Use your hands to grab the back of your thigh and pull it toward you. Keep your back straight, being careful not to lean forward.



A yoga mat is good for more than just yoga.

Hold this stretch for 30 seconds. Relax, return to the starting position and repeat the stretch on the other leg.

Forearm stretches: Lift one of your arms and hold it in front of you, with your palm facing down. Bend your hand downward, and gently pull it toward you using your other hand. Repeat using your other arm.

As you look to add more activity, be creative. Being active at home does not require you to invest in large pieces of exercise equipment. Consider these five inexpensive home fitness equipment items:

Jump-rope: Jumping rope gets your heart pumping and offers a great cardio workout. Exercising with a jump-rope requires little space, and it can be performed by people at any fitness level.

Yoga mat: A yoga mat is good for more than just yoga. Mats can protect your back and joints from

hard surfaces during your workout. A variety of different buttock and core workouts, as well as stretching, can be done using a mat.

Free weights or dumbbells: For added strength, free weights can be a plus. Select a variety of sizes—from 2 pounds to 20 pounds—that allow you to work your way up for a challenge. Depending on the style, these weights or dumbbells could be stored under a bed or in a closet. Kettlebells also are becoming popular. Grab one and curl your way through a commercial break if you are watching TV, or use them in the morning to help wake you up.

Resistance bands: Using resistance bands can improve your strength and muscle tone. These bands are available in various sizes and styles, take up minimal space and can travel with you for use while on vacation.

Stability ball: A stability ball is a useful piece of workout equipment that will help you strengthen your core. In addition to using a stability ball for exercises for your abdomen and core, you can use it as a chair at your desk. Over time, stronger back and abdominal muscles can improve your balance and stability. Be sure to get a ball that is large enough for your height. If you're between 5 feet, 1 inch, and 5 feet, 7 inches, a 55-centimeter ball is a good choice. If you're between 5 feet, 8 inches, and 6 feet, 1 inch, try a 65-centimeter ball. If you're 6 feet, 2 inches, or taller, try a 75-centimeter ball.

Although working from home may now be your norm, it can make exercising seem difficult. Try stretches and inexpensive workout equipment to increase your health and fitness from home. (*Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS*)

The stressors of stress on your body and behavior

Stress symptoms may be affecting your health, even though you might not realize it. You may think illness is to blame for that irritating headache, your frequent insomnia or your decreased productivity at work. But stress may actually be the cause. This article is written by Mayo Clinic Staff.

Common effects of stress

Indeed, stress symptoms can affect your body, your thoughts and feelings, and your behavior. Being able to recognize common stress symptoms can help you manage them. Stress that's left unchecked can contribute to many health problems, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity and diabetes.

- On your body: Headache, muscle tension or pain, chest pain, fatigue, change in sex drive, stomach upset, sleep problems



Overeating can be an effect of stress.

- On your mood: Anxiety, restlessness, lack of motivation or focus, feeling overwhelmed, irritability or anger, sadness or depression
- On your behavior: Overeating or undereating, angry outbursts,

drug or alcohol misuse, tobacco use, social withdrawal, exercising less often

Act to manage stress

If you have stress symptoms,

taking steps to manage your stress can have many health benefits. Explore stress management strategies, such as:

- Getting regular physical activity
- Practicing relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing, meditation, yoga, tai chi or massage
- Keeping a sense of humor
- Spending time with family and friends
- Setting aside time for hobbies, such as reading a book or listening to music

Aim to find active ways to manage your stress. Inactive ways to manage stress—such as watching television, surfing the internet or playing video games—may seem relaxing, but they may increase your stress over the long term.

And be sure to get plenty of sleep and eat a healthy, balanced diet.

Avoid tobacco use, excess caffeine and alcohol, and the use of illegal substances.

When to seek help

If you're not sure if stress is the cause or if you've taken steps to control your stress but your symptoms continue, see your doctor. Your healthcare provider may want to check for other potential causes. Or consider seeing a professional counselor or therapist, who can help you identify sources of your stress and learn new coping tools.

Also, get emergency help immediately if you have chest pain, especially if you also have shortness of breath, jaw or back pain, pain radiating into your shoulder and arm, sweating, dizziness, or nausea. These may be warning signs of a heart attack and not simply stress symptoms. (*Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS*)

Life & Style

An Oscars unlike any other to get underway Sunday

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP FILM WRITER

An Oscars unlike any before will get underway Sunday night, with history on the line in major categories and a telecast retooled for the pandemic.

The 93rd Academy Awards will begin at 8 p.m. EDT on ABC. There will be no host, no audience, nor face masks for nominees attending the ceremony at Los Angeles' Union Station—this year's hub for a show usually broadcast from the Dolby Theatre. In contrast with the largely virtual Golden Globes, Zoom boxes have been closed out—though numerous international hubs and satellite feeds will connect nominees unable to travel.

Show producers are hoping to return some of the traditional glamor to the Oscars, even in a pandemic year. The red carpet is back, though not the throngs; only a handful of media outlets will be allowed on site. (E! red carpet coverage starts at 3 p.m.) Casual wear is a no-no. The pre-show on ABC begins at 6:30 p.m. EDT and will include pre-taped performances of the five Oscar-nominated songs. The ceremony is available to stream on Hulu Live TV, YouTubeTV, AT&T TV, FuboTV and on ABC.com with provider authentication.

Pulling the musical interludes (though not the in memoriam segment) from the three-hour broadcast—and drastically cutting down the time it will take winners to reach the podium—will free up a lot of time in the cer-

emony. And producers, led by filmmaker Steven Soderbergh, are promising a reinvented telecast.

The Oscars will look more like a movie, Soderbergh has said. The show will be shot in 24 frames-per-second (as opposed to 30), appear more widescreen and the presenters—including Brad Pitt, Halle Berry, Reese Witherspoon, Harrison Ford, Rita Moreno and Zendaya—are considered “cast members.” The telecast's first 90 seconds, Soderbergh has claimed, will “announce our intention immediately.”

But even a great show may not be enough to save the Oscars from an expected ratings slide. Award show ratings have cratered during the pandemic, and this year's nominees—many of them smaller, lower-budget dramas—won't come close to the drawing power of past Oscar heavyweights like “Titanic” or “Black Panther.” Last year's Oscars, when Bong Joon Ho's “Parasite” became the first non-English language film to win best picture, was watched by 23.6 million, an all-time low.

Netflix dominated this year with 36 nominations, including the lead-nominee “Mank,” David Fincher's black-and-white drama about “Citizen Kane” co-writer Herman J. Mankiewicz. The streamer is still pursuing its first best-picture win; this year, its best shot may be Aaron Sorkin's “The Trial of the Chicago 7.”

But the night's top prize, best picture, is widely expected to go to Chloé Zhao's “Nomadland,” a contempla-



tive character study about an itinerant woman (Frances McDormand) in the American West. Should it be victorious, it will be one of the lowest budget best-picture winners ever. Zhao's film, populated by nonprofessional actors, was made for less than \$5 million. (Her next film, Marvel's “Eternals,” has a budget of at least \$200 million.)

Zhao is also the frontrunner for best director, a category that has two female filmmakers nominated for the first time. Also nominated is Emerald Fennell for the scathing revenge drama “Promising Young Woman.” Zhao would be just the second woman to win best director in the academy's 93 years (following Kathryn Bigelow for “The Hurt Locker”), and the first woman of color.

History is also possible in the acting categories. If the winners from the Screen Actors Guild Awards hold—“Ma Rainey's Black Bottom's” Chadwick Boseman for best actor, Viola Davis for best actress; Yuh-Jung Yoon (“Minari”) for best supporting actress; and Daniel Kaluuya (“Judas and the Black Messiah”) for best supporting actor—it would be the first time nonwhite actors swept the acting categories—and a dramatic reversal from recent “OscarsSoWhite” years.

Several of those awards appear to be locks, particularly for the late Boseman, who would become the third actor to ever win a posthumous Academy Award following Peter Finch and Heath Ledger. Taylor Simone Ledward, Boseman's widow, has often

accepted previous honors on his behalf.

If there's one less certain category, it's best actress. Davis, who has won previously for her performance in “Fences,” is up against Carey Mulligan (“Promising Young Woman”) and two-time winner McDormand. Prognosticators call it a three-way toss up.

Sunday's pandemic-delayed Oscars will bring to a close the longest awards season ever—one that turned the season's industrial complex of cocktail parties and screenings virtual. Eligibility was extended into February of this year, and for the first time, a theatrical run wasn't a requirement of nominees. Some films—like “Sound of Metal”—premiered all the way back in September 2019.

The pandemic pushed several anticipated movies out of

This combination photo shows poster art for best picture Oscar nominees, top row from left, “The Father,” “Judas and the Black Messiah,” “Mank,” “Minari,” bottom row from left, “Nomadland,” “Promising Young Woman,” “Sound of Metal,” and “The Trial of the Chicago 7.”

2020, but a few bigger budget releases could still take home awards. Pixar's “Soul” appears a sure-thing for best animated film, and Christopher Nolan's “Tenet”—which last September tried to lead a moviegoing revival that fizzled when virus cases spiked and many theaters couldn't reopen—will likely win for its visual effects.

But for the first time, Hollywood's most prestigious awards will overwhelmingly belong to films that barely played on the big screen. The biggest ticket-seller of the best picture nominees is “Promising Young Woman,” with \$6.3 million in box office.

Lately, with vaccinations expanding, signs of life have begun to show in movie theaters—most of which are operating at 50% capacity. Warner Bros.' “Godzilla vs. Kong” has made around \$400 million worldwide, which theater owners point to as proof that moviegoers are eager for studios to again release a regular diet of big movies. Right now, the date circled on cinema calendars is May 28, when both Paramount's “A Quiet Place Part II” and Disney's “Cruella” arrive in theaters—though “Cruella” will simultaneously stream for \$30.

Female colleagues get side-eye from man's wife

DEAR ABBY: My husband recently started a new job. He works with a bunch of women, which is a switch from what I'm used to since all his previous jobs were with all men.

These women “adore” him, and I don't think most are a threat, but two of them are very flirtatious, although he's not one to notice that stuff. He says they act like that with everyone, but I have tried to explain there are boundaries of what's acceptable for how a woman acts toward a married man. He thinks I'm overreacting and they don't mean anything, but they treat me differently when he's not around.

I am confident he wouldn't flirt back, but they seem to take his kindness as “accepting” their behavior. I don't want them to think he thinks it's OK, but he doesn't want to be rude since they all work together. What can be done, and how can I get him to see what I see? Am I overreacting?

STUCK BETWEEN QUIET OR CONFRONTING

DEAR STUCK: You and your husband will be a lot happier if you stop obsessing about his work environment. Nowhere in your letter did you state that your husband has been unfaithful.

It would be extremely inappropriate for you to confront his co-workers. If their “adoration” gets to the point where he becomes uncomfortable, he can either tell them enough

is enough or enlist the help of his supervisor or his boss.

DEAR ABBY: I was lunching with a group of women when the waiter walked up and addressed us as “you guys.” Men would be highly offended if a waiter approached a table of men and referred to them as “you ladies.” To me, there needs to be another way of addressing women that does not insult them and expect it to be accepted. It would have been just as easy to say, “What can I do for you ladies today?” or something of that nature.

One of the women at our table informed the waiter that we were a group of women, not men. Was she right to correct him?

PATSY IN ALABAMA

DEAR PATSY: The use of the word “guys” is decidedly casual. I'm sure your server—who I'll bet was a young person—didn't intend to insult anyone when he addressed your group as “you guys.” While I would not have been offended, clearly your tablemate was. And because she was offended, she was right to speak up—as long as she did it in a way that didn't embarrass the server.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of 11 years has a 16-year-old son from a previous relationship. Yesterday his son had a job interview, and not only did my boyfriend accompany him into the interview, he also answered the questions for his son. I tried to

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



explain to him that parents don't do that, but he thinks I am just being critical. Doesn't it look bad if parents go along into interviews?

BAFFLED IN THE EAST

DEAR BAFFLED: It not only looks bad, it IS bad. It looks terrible! Your boyfriend is a helicopter parent, and as well-meaning as he may be, he is doing his son no favors. I would be shocked if the boy was hired after that interview.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Randle, Barrett help Knicks beat Raptors for 9th win a row



NEW YORK (AP)—The last time the New York Knicks had a winning streak this long was also their last playoff appearance.

They might be surging toward another one.

Julius Randle had 31 points and 10 rebounds, RJ Barrett added 25 points and 12 boards, and the Knicks beat the Toronto Raptors 120-103 on Saturday for their ninth straight victory.

Derrick Rose scored 19 points for the Knicks, who are on their longest winning streak since a 13-game run late in the 2012-13 season, when they won the Atlantic Division title.

“We’re peaking but we can still get a lot better,” Randle said. “Obviously offensively we’re playing well, but defensively for a full 48 minutes I feel like we can be a lot better.”

The Knicks have moved into fourth place in the Eastern Conference with 11 games remaining and improved to 21-10 at home, where an announced crowd of 1,981 fans sounded louder at a time of year when basketball season is usually over at Madison Square Garden.

“Since the fans have been back it’s been amazing winning here,” Barrett said. “They give us such a boost and we’re really playing hard together because we want to make them proud.”

Randle, coming off a 40-point performance Wednesday against Atlanta, had 20 more by halftime Saturday. The Knicks then broke open a close game while he was on the bench to start the fourth quarter and Barrett made the big shots down the stretch to turn away his hometown team.

“That’s the best part about our team,” Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. “Julius is our engine but we have a lot of guys stepping up.”

Fred VanVleet and OG Anunoby each scored 27 points for the Raptors, who were trying for a season-high fifth straight victory. The entered the day tied for 11th, a game behind surging Washington for the final play-in position in the East.

There were 14 lead changes in the first three quarters and neither team led by more than nine, before the Knicks opened the fourth with a big burst.

Obi Toppin hit a pair of 3-pointers during that 14-3 spurt, with the second making it 102-86 with 9:13 remaining.

Toronto never really got close and the Knicks won the season series for the first time since 2010-11.

The Knicks finished at 56% from the field, 51.6% from 3-point range and 83.3% from the foul line.



New York Knicks guard RJ Barrett (9) drives to the basket against Toronto Raptors forward Yuta Watanabe (18) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, April 24, 2021, in New York.

players logged playing time against the Nuggets. D.J. Wilson led Houston with 25 points, Kelly Olynyk had 21 and Kenyon Martin Jr. 18.

Denver swept the three-game season series.

Pacers 115, Pistons 109

In Indianapolis, Malcolm Brogdon scored 26 points, Caris LeVert had 25 and Indiana had a late 12-0 run to beat Detroit.

With the Pacers down 101-97 with 4:41 remaining, LeVert made a layup to start the run. Brogdon hit a 3-pointer and added a layup, with the latter making it 109-101 with 2:42 remaining.

Edmond Sumner added 22 points for the Pacers. They swept the season series from the Pistons for the first time since 2016-17 and have won 10 of 12 at home against Detroit.

Jerami Grant, led the Pistons with 25 points. Mason Plumlee had 17 points and 21 rebounds.

Spurs 110, Pelicans 108

In New Orleans, DeMar DeRozan scored 11 of his team-high 32 points in the final 7:40 and made all 12 of his free throws in San Antonio’s victory over New Orleans.

With the Spurs clinging to a 104-103 lead with 2:04 left, DeRozan scored the next four points, and the Pelicans could not respond.

The Pelicans damaged their chances by committing 19 turnovers and going 17 of 32 from the foul line. San Antonio made 27 of 32 free throws.

Zion Williamson led the Pelicans with 33 points and 14 rebounds, and Brandon Ingram had 24 points, six rebounds and six assists.

Heat 106, Bulls 101

In Miami, Duncan Robinson made seven 3-pointers and scored 23 points, Kendrick Nunn had 22 and Miami held off a big Chicago rally.

Bam Adebayo had 20 points and 10 assists for the Heat, and Jimmy Butler added 20 points. Miami trailed but saw what was a 24-point lead cut to two in the final moments.

Coby White scored 31 points for Chicago, and Nikola Vucevic had 26 points and 14. The Bulls outscored the Heat 60-45 in the second half, but wound up losing for the seventh time in their last 10 games.

The teams will meet in Miami again Monday.

“It was weird. I told the team in the locker room, I said, ‘We really executed things pretty well,’ and then it didn’t work out,” Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. “I guess it was just, again, they made them, we didn’t make them.”

The Knicks shot 61% in the first half and opened their biggest lead at 55-46 when Reggie Bullock made his third straight 3-pointer. They led 64-59 at halftime.

Pascal Siakam had 26 points for the Raptors but Kyle Lowry was 1 for 10, missing all eight 3-pointers.

Mavericks 108, Lakers 93

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 18 points and 13 assists and Dallas overcame a 17-point deficit to beat Los Angeles in Lakers star Anthony Davis’ second game back from a long injury absence.

Dwight Powell scored 12 of

his season-high 25 points in the fourth quarter.

The Mavericks swept a two-game home set against the defending NBA champs and moved a game ahead of Portland the all-important sixth seed in the Western Conference. The No. 7 team has to make the playoffs through a play-in format.

The Lakers, still without fellow star LeBron James and also missing Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, are 1 1/2 games ahead of the Mavericks for fifth place.

Davis was sluggish again coming off 30 games missed because of right calf and heel issues, finishing 5 of 19 from the field. The eight-time All-Star’s best stretch came late in the second quarter, when he scored 10 of his 17 points.

Timberwolves 101, Jazz 96

In Salt Lake City, Karl-Anthony

ny Towns had 24 points and 12 rebounds to lead Minnesota past NBA-leading Utah.

Anthony Edwards added 23 points and nine rebounds, and D’Angelo Russell also finished with 23 points to help Minnesota beat Utah on the road for the second time this season.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 30 points and made seven 3-pointers to lead the Jazz. They lost at home for just the fourth time this season.

The teams will meet again Monday night in Minneapolis.

Bucks 132, 76ers 94

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 24 points and moved into second place on Milwaukee’s career scoring list in a romp over Philadelphia.

Antetokounmpo also had 14 rebounds and seven assists. He passed Glenn Robinson on the career list with 12,023. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is the

leader with 14,211.

The Bucks beat the 76ers for the second time in three days to hand Philadelphia its fourth straight loss. Playing without All-Stars Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons, the 76ers matched their lowest point total and suffered their most lopsided loss of the season.

Nuggets 129, Rockets 116

In Denver, Michael Porter Jr. scored a career-high 39 points, Nikola Jokic had 24 points and Denver beat undermanned Houston.

P.J. Dozier started at guard in place of the injured Will Barton and added a career-high 23 points for the Nuggets. They are 13-3 in their last 16 games while dealing with a wave of backcourt injuries.

The Rockets, too, have been besieged by injuries and roster upheaval and only seven

Magic coach Steve Clifford tests positive, status uncertain

Orlando coach Steve Clifford has tested positive for coronavirus, though he and the team are waiting on re-tests before determining if he will have to miss time.

Clifford does not expect to be cleared in time for Sunday’s home game against Indiana, though no final determination has been made yet. He may be able to coach in Monday’s home game against the Los Angeles Lakers, provided he returns two negative tests by then.

Clifford originally tested positive Thursday night. He returned two negative tests Friday, giving hope that the first positive was a false result, then learned Saturday afternoon that a test he took that morning came back positive.

“I feel fine,” Clifford said Saturday evening. “I have no temperature. I feel 100%.”

If Clifford cannot coach Sunday or in subsequent games, Magic assistant Tyrone Corbin will take his place.

Clifford has received both doses of the Moderna vaccine, getting the second one on Thursday. He is not yet considered “fully vaccinated” by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocols, since two weeks have not passed since his final dose. He said he has experienced no side effects from getting the vaccine.

He has dealt with some health issues in the past, including missing 21 games during the 2017-18 season when he coached in Charlotte after problems caused by sleep deprivation presented themselves, and he left a game at Minnesota in March 2020 after experiencing dizziness caused by dehydration.

“I feel comfortable that I’m not really in danger,” Clifford said. “That with the fact that my temperature, my oxidation numbers, how I feel, I have no side effects right now, I’m very comfortable with that.”

Clifford’s situation is just the latest in a series of challenges for the Magic this season, following a trade-deadline franchise restart with the trades of Nikola Vucevic, Aaron Gordon and Evan Fournier, along with Markelle Fultz being lost early in the season to a knee injury and Jonathan Isaac missing the entire year with a knee injury he sustained in the NBA’s restart bubble last August.

Orlando was the NBA’s last team to remain unbeaten at the beginning of the season, getting off to a 4-0 start.

The Magic were 6-2 after an early January sweep of a two-game set against Cleveland — then lost 15 of their next 18 games, and it’s only gotten worse from there.

Their longest winning streak in the last two months has been a mere two games. They’ve lost 10 of their last 11 and entered Saturday with the fourth-worst record in the NBA at 18-41, just a half-game ahead of Detroit for the worst mark in the Eastern Conference.

“It’s been a tough year,” Clifford said. “But you have to evaluate things, you have to self-reflect, and this is not easy for guys either. The easy thing to do for me as a head coach is say, ‘Oh, woe is me.’ But our guys are trying hard. ... I want them to get the most out of this last 13 games as they can.” (AP)

Emanuel works 8 2/3 in relief debut, Astros beat Angels



HOUSTON
(AP)—Kent Emanuel

worked 8 2/3 innings in relief in his major league debut, saving Houston's bullpen after Jake Odorizzi left early with an injury, and the Astros pounded the Los Angeles Angels 16-2 on Saturday.

Emanuel (1-0) allowed five hits and two runs. The 28-year-old became the fourth pitcher in the modern era to have a relief outing of 8 2/3 innings or more in his debut.

Alex Bregman hit a three-run homer, Yordan Alvarez had a season-high four RBIs and Carlos Correa had three hits including a homer for Houston. The Astros had season highs in runs and hits (18) to win their third straight following a three-game skid.

Odorizzi exited with tightness in his right forearm after retiring leadoff batter David Fletcher on five pitches.

The Angels got solo homers from Albert Pujols in the second and Shohei Ohtani in the third. Bregman padded the lead when he sent a slider from Griffin Canning (1-2) to make it 6-2 in the third.

Yankees 2, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Gerrit Cole was one pitch better than Shane Bieber in a heavyweight matchup of aces as Rougned Odor and Aaron Hicks homered for New York off Cleveland's Cy Young winner in the fifth inning.

Cole (3-1) struck out 11 and allowed three hits in seven innings to beat Bieber (2-2) in a rematch of their meeting in last year's playoffs. Cole's 50 strikeouts in his first five starts are the most for any pitcher in New York's storied history.

Bieber fanned nine — the first time he hasn't reached double digits in five starts — and tied Hall of Famer Randy Johnson's record with his 17th straight start of at least eight strikeouts.

After Cole was pulled following his 111th pitch, Justin Wilson got two outs in the eighth. With closer Aroldis Chapman unavailable after pitching three times in four days, Jonathan Loaisiga came on and finished up for his first career save.

Athletics 7, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Jed Lowrie hit a three-run homer and Oakland won its 13th straight game, building a big lead early and beating Baltimore.

This is the third-longest winning streak in Oakland history. The A's won 14 straight in 1988, then set an American League record with 20 consecutive victories in 2002.

Matt Olson and Mark Canha had two hits and two RBIs apiece for Oakland, which has



won nine in row against the Orioles dating to 2019.

Chris Bassitt (2-2) weathered steady rain that fell at Camden Yards, allowing two runs and eight hits over six innings.

The A's took a 1-0 lead in the first on a bloop single by Olson that scored Canha, who led off with a double against Wade LeBlanc (0-1). LeBlanc made his first start of the season after five relief appearances.

Dodgers 5, Padres 4

In Los Angeles, Corey Seager's two-run single in the sixth inning provided the go-ahead runs and Los Angeles overcame another two-homer game from Fernando Tatis Jr. to defeat San Diego.

The Padres threatened in the ninth, putting the potential tying run in scoring position with one out, but Kenley Jansen retired Tatis on a grounder and struck out Trent Grisham for his fifth save.

The NL West rivals have split six meetings this season, with the Padres winning the previous three.

Tatis hit a leadoff homer and another solo shot off NL Cy Young Award winner Trevor Bauer (3-0) to become the first opposing player with multi-homer games on consecutive nights at Dodger Stadium since San Francisco slugger Barry Bonds in 2002.

Los Angeles erased a 3-2 deficit with three runs in the sixth. The Dodgers tied it when Mookie Betts drew a bases-loaded walk from Pierce Johnson (0-1) and took their first lead when Seager laced a single to right.

White Sox 2, Rangers 1

In Chicago, Nick Madrigal doubled home the winning run in the ninth inning after Liam

Hendriks allowed a tying homer in the top half, and Chicago recovered to beat Texas.

Luis Robert led off the White Sox ninth with an infield single. Rookie phenom Yermín Mercedes was intentionally walked before Madrigal delivered the winning hit to right field off John King (2-1) with two outs.

Willie Calhoun hit his first homer of the season off Hendriks (1-0) to right-center to tie the game.

Dallas Keuchel threw six shutout innings for the White Sox, who have won five of six. They moved above .500 for the first time this season on Friday.

Nationals 7, Mets 1

In New York, Joe Ross tossed six solid innings and helped himself with an RBI single as Washington beat New York.

Yadiel Hernandez, a 33-year-old rookie who entered with six hits in 36 career at-bats, had two hits and two RBIs for the Nationals.

Michael Conforto homered in the fourth for the Mets.

Ross (2-1) allowed five hits and one walk while striking out four.

Marcus Stroman (3-1) yielded five runs, four earned, on eight hits and two walks.

Cardinals 2, Reds 0

In St. Louis, John Gant earned his first victory as a starter since 2018 by throwing six strong innings and St. Louis sent Cincinnati to its sixth straight loss.

Andrew Knizner, subbing for injured catcher Yadier Molina, and Nolan Arenado each drove in a run. Dylan Carlson added three singles as St. Louis won a series for just the second time this season.

After waiting out a rain delay of 2 hours, 20 minutes before throwing his first pitch, Gant (1-2) allowed just three hits. It was Gant's first win as a starting pitcher since Sept. 9, 2018.

Giovanny Gallegos finished the three-hitter for his first save.

Wade Miley (2-2) gave up two runs on five hits in six innings.

Mariners 8, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Kyle Seager, Sam Haggerty and Ty France each had three hits, leading Chris Flexen and Seattle past Boston.

Seager singled in a run in the first inning, tripled home two more in the second and doubled with the bases empty in the fifth. France scored three times, and Haggerty drove in two runs.

Flexen (2-1) permitted one run and four hits in seven innings. It was the third time in his four starts this season that he has allowed one or fewer runs.

Alex Verdugo and Rafael Devers each had two hits for Boston. Nathan Eovaldi (3-2) allowed five runs — four earned — and seven hits in five innings.

Royals 2, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Brady Singer pitched seven impressive innings, and Kansas City took advantage of some defensive sloppiness by Detroit.

Willi Castro homered for Detroit in the fifth, but that wasn't enough to overcome Kansas City's two runs in the top of that inning. Singer (1-2) allowed three hits and struck out eight.

Scott Barlow worked the eighth, and Josh Staumont pitched a perfect ninth for his first career save. The game was finished in 2 hours, 10 minutes.

Detroit left-hander Mat-

thew Boyd (2-2) allowed one earned run and three hits in eight innings. The Tigers have lost eight of nine.

Brewers 4, Cubs 3

In Chicago, pinch-hitter Manny Piña connected for a tie-breaking two-run homer in the seventh inning, and the Brewers held off the Cubs.

Brent Suter (2-1) worked two scoreless innings in relief of Freddy Peralta, helping Milwaukee to its fourth win in five games. Josh Hader got three outs for his fourth save in four opportunities.

Keston Hiura had three hits as the Brewers bounced back from a 15-2 loss in the series opener Friday.

Cubs manager David Ross was ejected by plate umpire Corey Blaser in the ninth following a strike one call on Jake Marisnick with a runner on first and none out. Marisnick struck out on three pitches.

Jason Heyward homered for Chicago, which had won four in a row. Andrew Chafin (0-1) got the loss.

Pirates 6, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Michael Perez had three hits and three RBIs, sending Trevor Cahill and the Pirates to the victory.

Cahill (1-2) permitted one run and two hits in six innings. It was his longest outing since he also worked six innings for the Angels at Baltimore on May 10, 2019.

Minnesota lost for the 10th time in 12 games. Michael Pineda (1-1) allowed five runs, four earned, and six hits in 4 1/3 innings. Jake Cave had two of the Twins' three hits.

Rays 5, Blue Jays 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Tampa Bay broke an eighth-inning tie

Houston Astros substitute pitcher Kent Emanuel, coming in for injured Jake Odorizzi, throws against the Los Angeles Angels during the first inning of a baseball game Saturday, April 24, 2021, in Houston.

when Toronto third baseman Cavan Biggio let a grounder go between his legs and went on to win.

Jordan Romano (1-1) walked Brandon Lowe and Mike Brosseau to start the eighth. Manuel Margot hit a grounder that got past Biggio for an error, allowing Lowe to score and put the Rays ahead 4-3. Margot later scored on Kevin Kiermaier's grounder.

Brosseau and Mike Zunino homered for the Rays, who stopped a four-game losing streak.

Toronto got a three-run homer from Randal Grichuk.

The Blue Jays loaded the bases with two outs in the eighth but failed to score against Ryan Thompson (1-1). Andrew Kittredge worked the ninth for his first save.

Phillies 7, Rockies 5

In Denver, Rhys Hoskins homered twice and drove in five runs to back seven solid innings from Aaron Nola, sending Philadelphia past Colorado.

Nola (2-1) allowed four runs and six hits but settled down after the fifth. He retired his last seven batters, added a single at the plate and was on base for both of Hoskins' homers.

Héctor Neris worked around a triple in the ninth to get his third save in four chances.

The Rockies tied it on Ryan McMahon's two-run homer in the fifth but Philadelphia struck again in the sixth. A two-out walk to Andrew McCutchen put runners on first and second, and Hoskins took Jhoulys Chacin (0-1) deep with a shot to right-center field.

Marlins 5, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Jesus Aguilar snapped a tie with a two-run homer to spark a four-run ninth inning and Miami beat San Francisco.

Aguilar lined an 0-1 pitch from Gregory Santos (0-1) into the left-center stands after Magneuris Sierra's leadoff walk to give Miami a 3-1 lead.

Jon Berti also went deep and Corey Dickerson added two hits for the Marlins, including an RBI triple in the ninth.

Dylan Floro (1-1) retired three batters to get the win.

San Francisco's Kevin Gausman pitched two-hit ball over eight smooth innings and matched his career high with 11 strikeouts. He allowed one run and walked one.

Interscholastic chess tourney set for May 1

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**

joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The International Chess Club is holding Saipan's first-ever Interscholastic Chess Tournament at the MHS Cafeteria this Saturday, May 1, starting at 8:30am.

Prizes will include a brunch gift certificate from Hyatt Regency Saipan, 10 Joeten Enterprises gift cards, and much more.

Marianas High School senior Joseph Zhang leads the chess club and he said the tournament was originally slated for 2018, but was canceled because of Super Typhoon Yutu and canceled anew last year amidst COVID-19 concerns. He is hopeful that the tourna-



ment will jumpstart the long dormant sport's future among Saipan's youth. In line with COVID-19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
International Chess Club president Joseph Zhang hold up the two kings. Having already been delayed by Super Typhoon Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Interscholastic Chess Tournament is happening this Saturday, May 1, at the Marianas High School Cafeteria.

guidelines, upon entrance judges, spectators, and competitors will have their temperatures checked and will be required to use hand sanitizers. The chess setups will be properly spaced to maintain social distancing, and the boards and pieces will be wiped down at the end of every match. The tournament will have

five to six rounds with possible eliminations, and the time format will be g/5 d/3— five minutes of total playing time with a three-second delay before the clock begins counting down. There will be 10 chess boards allowing for 10 games to happen simultaneously with volunteer judges supervising every game and enforcing chess rules.

Boards and chess clocks were mostly sourced through the International Chess Club's own funds with some help from Joeten Enterprises, which provided the event with two additional chess sets aside from the aforementioned 10 gift cards.

"After three years of hard work, with freshmen year being fundraising to buy chess materials, sophomore year trying to create a school tournament but failed because of [Super Typhoon] Yutu, junior year with the tournament failing because of COVID-19, and now, I finally have the chance to make the tournament happen," said Zhang.

Zhang was introduced

to the game of chess in the 8th grade by a staff member from Dandan Middle School, and quickly fell in love with the game. Surprised that there were no chess activities at Marianas High School when he entered his freshman year, Zhang took initiative and created the International Chess Club. Today, the group has 15 MHS student members, and Zhang has expressed interest in expanding the club's outreach and forming ICC branches at other schools on island.

Like many chess enthusiasts, Zhang enjoys watching chess content creators like Agadmator and Ted and Tedx videos on chess. Although he has not watched *The Queen's Gambit* to completion, he acknowledges the show's impact on chess and mentioned how people bring up the Netflix Original show any time he talks about ICC or the tournament. More information about the tournament, and registering to compete can be done by emailing Zhang at internationalchessclub@gmail.com.

McDonald's is hole-in-one sponsor of SCC Scholarship Golf tourney

"Biba McDonald's!" exclaimed president Joe C. Guerrero, as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce was presented the prized envelope confirming McDonald's of Saipan as a hole-in-one prize sponsor for the 2021 SCC Two-Man Scramble Scholarship Golf Tournament!

SCC recognizes the profound support of the local establishments like McDonald's of Saipan, who share the vision of encouraging and promoting higher education and investing in our islands' workforce.

SCC Events Committee chair Marcia N. Calvo extended her gratitude to McDonald's and the Ayuyu family for continuing to support this event. "Both the SCC and McDonald's understand how vital it is to hold such fundraising to support the education of our youth. Their knowledge and experience will ultimately set the tone of a prosperous economy of tomorrow."

McDonald's executive as-

sistant to the president, Natalie Mable A. Glenn, enthusiastically stated, "McDonald's is here to support our business community- the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. We are so honored to continue to give back to the community, and the SCC does an amazing job in putting events together that really support education



which is near and dear to our President and executive team. We look forward to playing at the tournament and seeing this all go towards a good cause!"

Upon their donation, McDonald's of Saipan will be giving away \$5,000 to the lucky player who makes a hole-in-one at hole No. 13.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joseph Guerrero, McDonald's executive assistant to the president Natalie Mable A. Glenn, SCC Events Committee chair Marcia Calvo, golf tournament chair Shayne Villanueva, McDonald's Human Resource manager Ana Olaes, and SCC executive director Maxine Laszlo.

KOBLERVILLE

From Page 20

and Public School System's Student Support Services Athletic Program cancelled last year's competition due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the league returned to action this season, Koblerville assembled two teams and both advanced to the playoff round. Koblerville-1, unfortunately, lost to SCS in the second semis berth (0-2/penalty shootout), preventing an All-Umangs finale, but the former still finished the competition on a winning note after downing Saipan International School, 7-1, in the battle for third place last Thursday.

Before dominating their respective opponents last week, Koblerville's two teams were

unbeaten (in three games) in round-robin play and Mendiola attributed the group's success in the short season due to the players' commitment to the squad and the support from Umangs family.

"I am most proud of our students for putting their time, effort, and heart into each game they played. Their dedication to represent our school is one key factor that I believe led to our success. The Umangs' school culture is filled with a spirit of competitiveness but at the same time we stay humble in all the sports we participate in. With this short season and with two different cohorts, it was difficult to have consistent practice times but they all put their trust in one another to deliver their best during game time," Mendiola said.

"Another key factor was

their ability to listen to their coaches' advice and strategies and execute them on the field. This would not have been possible without the support of my co-coach Joe Etpison, the parents, our KES alumni, and school staff for taking their time to show their support in their own way. We would like take this opportunity as well to thank NMIFA and Nick Gross (PSS athletic director) for coordinating this season. The work you do continues to help build strong communities in our islands," the long-time KES coach added.

Meanwhile, with his three goals in last weekend's finale, Maratita recorded the most in the season after collecting 17 in five matches. Guilas joined Maratita in the Top 3 rankings for players with the most goals in the competition after add-

ing two in the championship game. Atalig was the other scorer for KES-2 in the finals, while KES-1's Jerz Navarro finished second to Maratita in the most goals record category after delivering 10.

Navarro fired two goals in their win over SIS in the consolation match, while Kian Estolas registered three, and Sean Billimon and Brianie Echalico contributed one apiece. SIS got an own goal in the third place match.

In the finals, SCS, after failing to score in the first half, drew a pair from Jose Sablan in the second. Sablan was among the four players who recorded five goals this season. The three others were William S. Reyes' Aldric Jon Antonio, SIS' Finn Altizer, and Estolas.

TURTLES

From Page 20

40.31 followed closely by Sablan at 41.07.

The Lady Turtles remained consistent, bagging first in the 9U category of the 60m event behind Alina Esakova who finished in 10.49. Saipan Community School's Maria Haberman came in at second by a hair with a time of 11.06, closely trailed by OES' Elena Teigita who finished at 11.27.

The Lady Turtles also prevailed in the 9U category of the 200m qualifier with Eskova topping her foes with a time of 39.20. SCS' Allie Brasuell came in second at 41.76, while OES' Teigita finished in 43.71.

Meanwhile, the WSR Kingfishers prevailed in the 9U category of the 60m behind Landin Reyes who took first place with a time of 11.17 in the second heat. He was trailed by SCS' Joshua McDonald who finished first in the first heat just .20 seconds behind Reyes at 11.37. Completing the Top 3 was WSR's Marq Hernandez who finished at 11.85.

Reyes also prevailed in the 9U category of the 200m event after submitting a time of 39.93. SCS' Kastle Haberman placed second for the category with his time of 43.28 and rounding up the Top 3 was SCS' Lenox Sablan with a time of 43.77.

With the Turtles not making a debut in the 9U 800m category, the Kingfishers came out on top behind John Paul Binghit who came in at 03.42 followed

closely by SCS' Andre Guerrero at 03.44. Completing the Top 3 was WSR's Jiro Quindoz who came in at 04.03.

The Lady Tsunamis of SCS swept the win behind Brasuell and Haberman who bagged first and second place, respectively. Brasuell finished with a time of 03.37 closely followed by Haberman at 04.02.

In the 12U long jump qualifiers, the Turtles remained consistent with Camacho bagging first at 3.20m, followed by Diaz at 3.10m and completing the Top 3 was Kapwhich who leapt for 2.60m.

The Lady Turtles also succeeded and swept their division of the 12U long jump category with Chalanag coming in first with a time of 2.60m, followed by Sandra Chargualaf who finished 2.40m. Rounding up the Top 3 was Sablan who came in at 2.20m.

In the 9U Long jump category, the Lady Tsunamis managed to gain entrance to the Top 3 behind SCS' Haberman who submitted a time of 3.00. Taking second was OES' Esakova with a time of 2.80 followed by Teigita at 2.40.

The Tsunamis continued to triumph in the boy's division of the 9U long jump with Kastle Haberman with a jump of 2.80m. McDonald came in just 10m short of Kastle at 2.70m. Completing the Top 3 was WSR's Visnuth Paul at 2.35m.

The Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship is being held in coordination with Northern Marianas Athletics.



Randle, Barrett
help Knicks beat
Raptors for 9th
win a row

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Saipan Tribune Sports

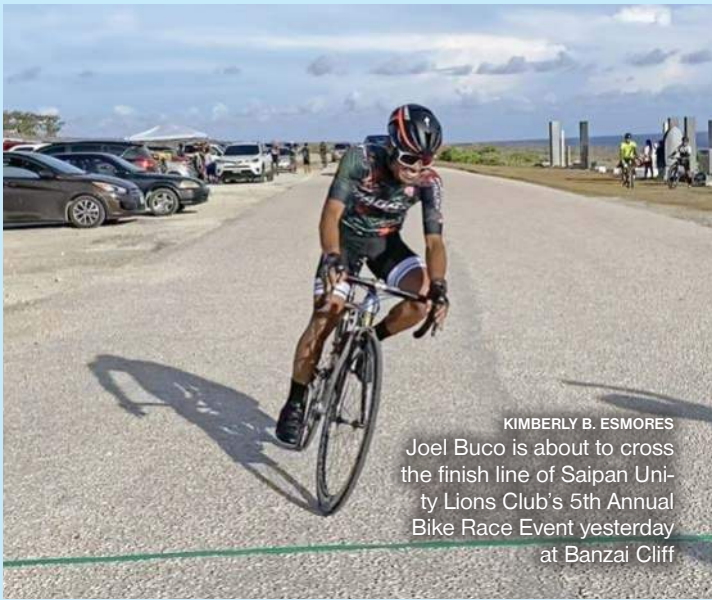
Interscholastic
chess tourney
set for May 1

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20 MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Joel Buco is about to cross
the finish line of Saipan Uni-
ty Lions Club's 5th Annual
Bike Race Event yesterday
at Banzai Cliff

Buco tops Lions Club's bike race anew

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Veteran biker Joel Buco completed a three-peat after topping the 35-kilometer Saipan Unity Lions Club's 5th Annual Bike Race Event early yesterday morning at Banzai Cliff.

The 48-year-old The Water Company employee negotiated the long course of the road bike division from Banzai Cliff to Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, the Grotto before returning to Banzai

Cliff in an unofficial time of just under 59 minutes.

It's the third straight year that the Nueva Ecija, Philippines native won the competition. He also won last week's 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan.

When asked how he does it, Buco simply said it's because there's not much to do on Saipan so to pass the time, he rides his bike and enjoys the island's many magnificent sites while tackling some of Saipan's challenging routes.

In terms of the competition, Buco said he trained for seven weeks, three times a week. His training consisted of biking up to Suicide Cliff three times a week.

Following Buco, at second place, was Ren Ren Gaviola and completing the Top 3 was Nap Dizon.

Meanwhile, in the short course, Edwin Angeles finished first followed by Angel De Guzman and completing the Top 3 was Larry



Malis. The 2-kilometer short course had its starting line at Mobil Tanapag before proceeding to Bird Island Lookout and then to Banzai Cliff before reverting back to Mobil Tanapag for the finish line.

According to Saipan Unity Lions Club president Alicia Barbo, the event, which was expecting just 60 participants given the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, had over 115 registered participants.

Koblerville reclaims title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School-2 dominated Saipan Community School, 6-2, in the finals of the 2020-2021 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Jose Maratita powered KES-2 to the easy title victory after scoring a hat trick in the one-game championship duel. Joining Maratita on the winning squad were Selena Atalig, Greg Basiente, Michael Elyada, Jairoh Guilas, Kapua Hocog, Bretanya Iba, Joseph Lizama, Kaliya Mendiola, Jackielyn Padua, Abraham Saralu, Kyle Tabanes, and Keanu Villanueva. Francis Mendiola and Joe Etpison



are the KES-2's coaches. "The Umangs brought back the championship to the south side," coach Mendiola said.

The north side's Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School topped the ISL during the 2019 season after nosing out Koblerville in the finals, 3-2, while Northern Marianas Islands Football Association

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Koblerville Elementary School-2 players and coaches pose with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials and Public School System Student Support Services Athletic Program director Nick Gross, back row second right, after receiving their championship trophy during the awards ceremony for the 2020-2021 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Oleai Elementary School Turtles closed strong in the final qualifying events of the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship at the Oleai Track and Field last Friday.

Turtles outrun foes in All Schools

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Oleai Elementary School Turtles closed strong in the final qualifying events of the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship at the Oleai Track and Field last Friday.

Like the story the *Tortoise and the Hare*, the OES Turtles demonstrated that reptiles rule after sweeping three of the final four qualifying events last Friday.

In the 60m race, the 12U Turtles dominated its com-

petition behind Sherman Camacho, Twayne Kapwhich, and Kyle Diaz who completed the Top 3. Camacho finished the 60m course the fastest at 10.63 followed closely by Kapwhich at 10.85 who was

tied by Diaz at 11.24. The trio won a similar victory in the 12U 200m event with Camacho finishing first with a time of 41.54, followed by Kapwhich submitting a time of 42.12 and Diaz completing the top three again at 42.45.

The Lady Turtles also tri-



umphed in their own division of the 12U 60m category with Indirha Chalanag who finished first at 10.83 followed by schoolmate Reanni Sablan submitting a time of 11.13. Completing the Top 3 was William S. Reyes' Aires Jo Magofna who came in at 11.39.

The Lady Turtles also succeeded in the 12U 200m qualifier with Chalanag and Sablan being the only athletes who participated in the qualifier. Chalanag came in first at

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